小森羊仔
青い鱗と砂の街
1
MARGARET COMICS
YOU

Lovely Strange Dark

lovelystrangedark.wordpress.com

AOI UROKO TO SUNA NO MACHI

"THE TOWN OF BLUE SCALES AND SAND"

BY KOMORI YOUKO

CHAPTER 1

Raws: kuinni

Translated: Kalenael

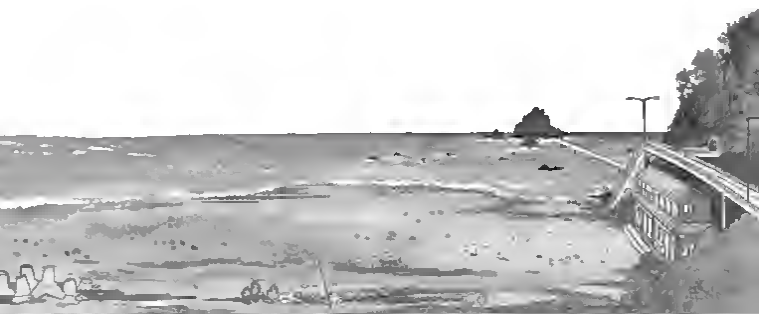
Edited: Ximena

QC: Ianu

Aoi Uroko to Suna no Machi

1

Komori Youko



Aoi Uroko to Suna no Machi 1

"The Town of Blue Scales and Sand"

Contents

One	A Lovely Town	3
Two	The Deep Sea	45
Three	Lapping at the Shore	77
Four	Deep Secret	109
Five	Sounds of the Sea	141
Extra	Narumi, Day One	183

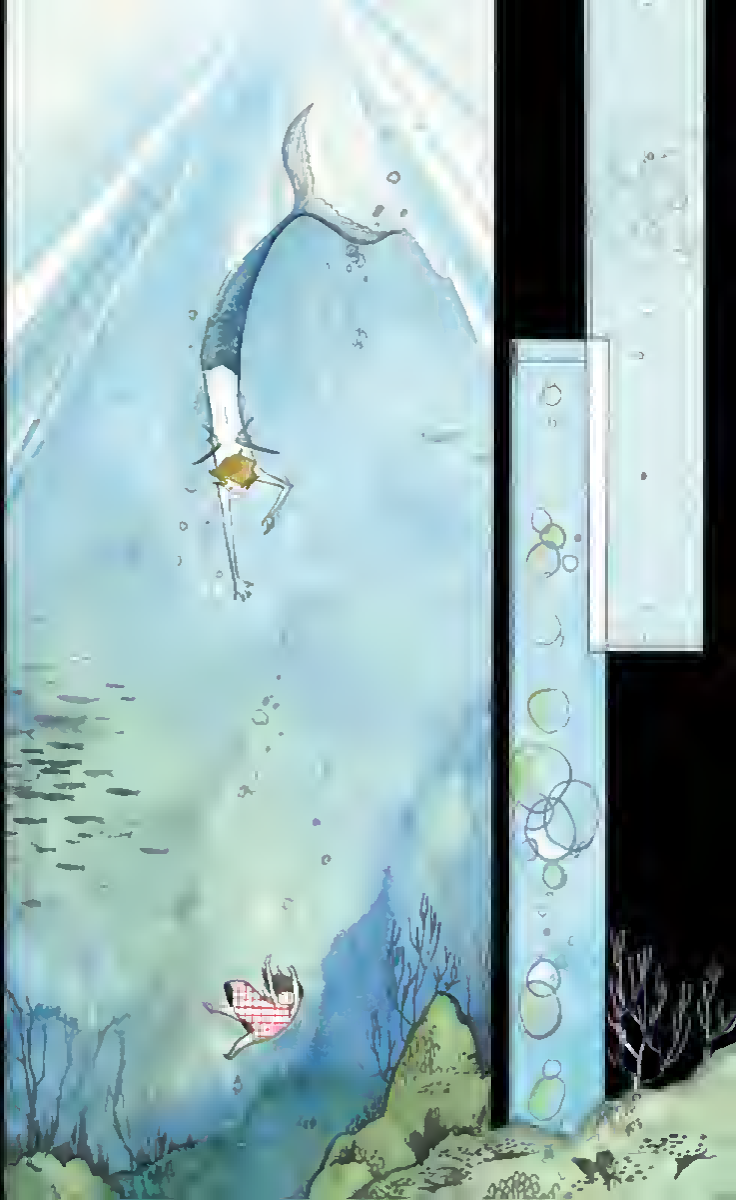
illustrated by Yoko Komori

小森羊仔

青い鱗と砂の街

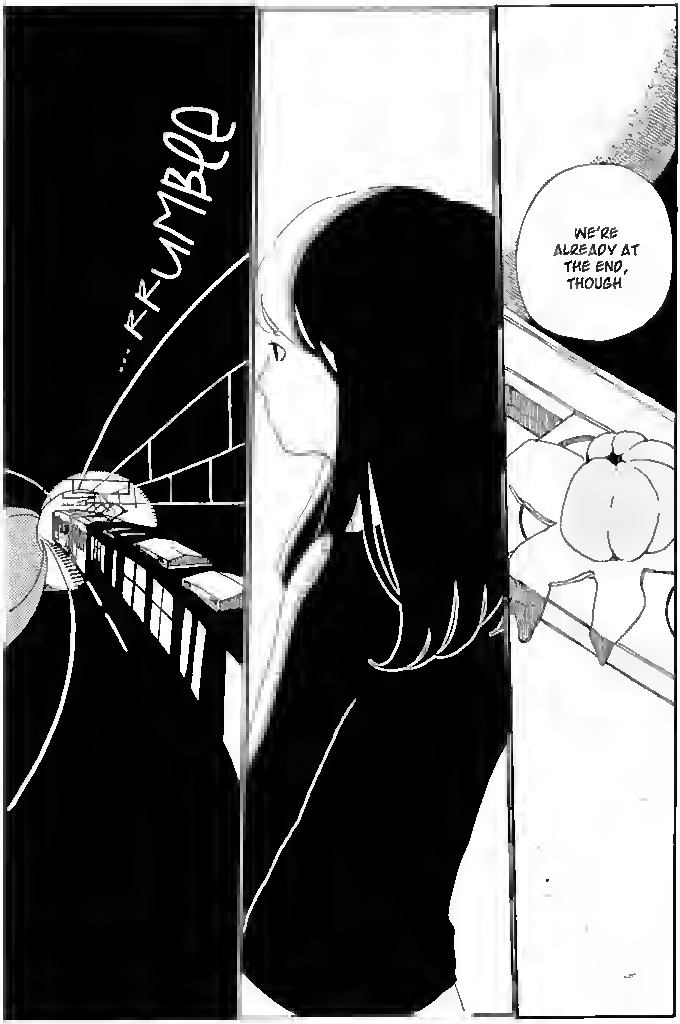
第壱話

[One]
A Lovely
Town

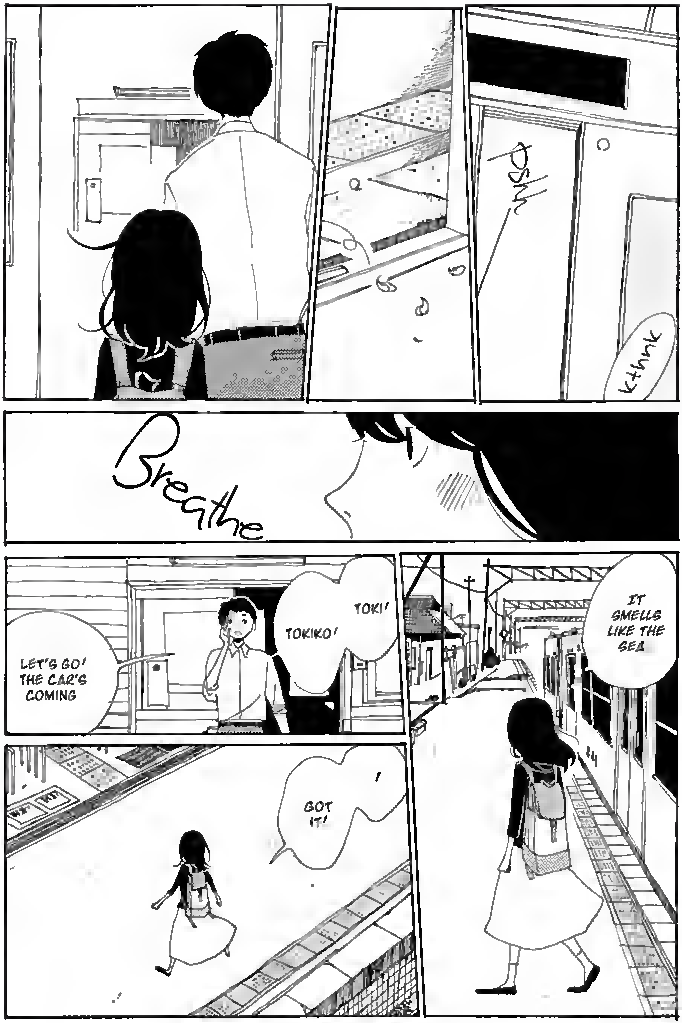


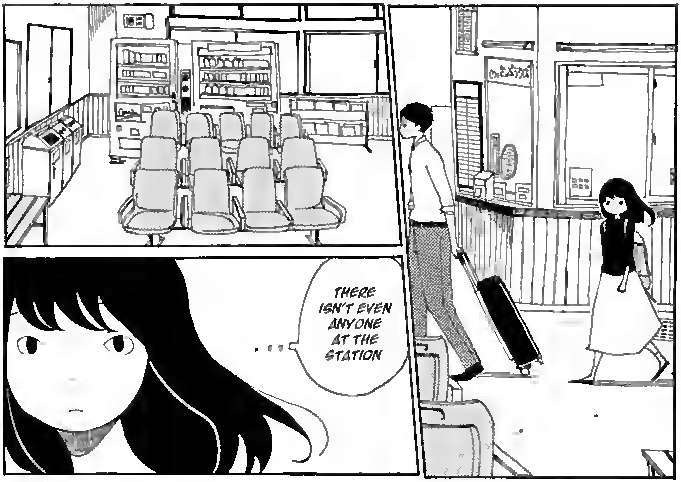
We will soon arrive at Sunanomori
FUMBLED
Please remember to take all your belongings with you when you exit.

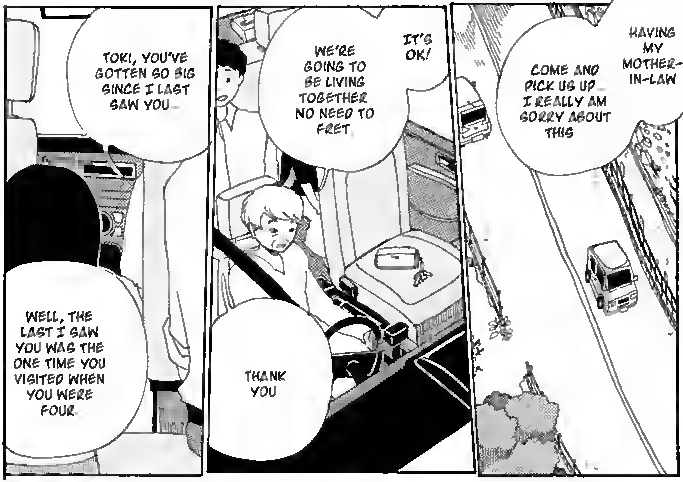
...IT'S A LONG TUNNEL.
THE STATION'S RIGHT PAST THIS TUNNEL.
OH... YOU'RE UP?
...KRKUMBLQQ
KTHUNK
KTHUNK
KTHUNK


...RRUMBLE
WE'RE ALREADY AT THE END, THOUGH

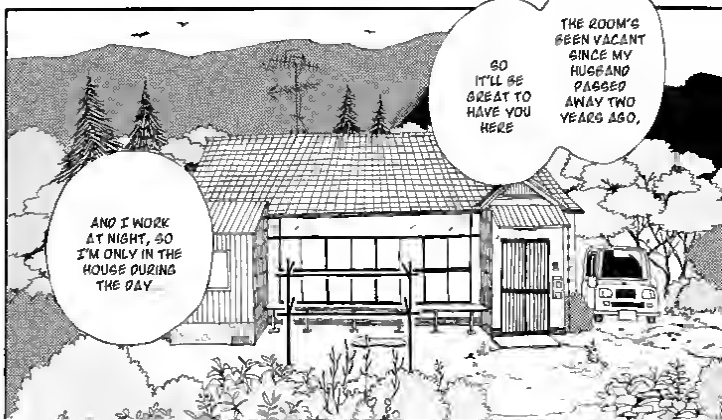
DO YOU REMEMBER IT?
YOU CAME HERE ONCE WHEN YOU WERE FOUR, TOKI
THAT'S THE GRADE SCHOOL
THERE'S A POLICE BOX AND TOWN HALL
INSIDE THE HOSPITAL
OK, BE CAREFUL NOT TO LEAVE ANYTHING HERE
DAD, THE ORANGES..
OH, I FORGOT!


Shh
Khhk
Breathe
TOKIKO!
TOKI!
LET'S GO! THE CAR'S COMING
IT SMELLS LIKE THE SEA
GOT IT!


THERE ISN'T EVEN ANYONE AT THE STATION
. . .

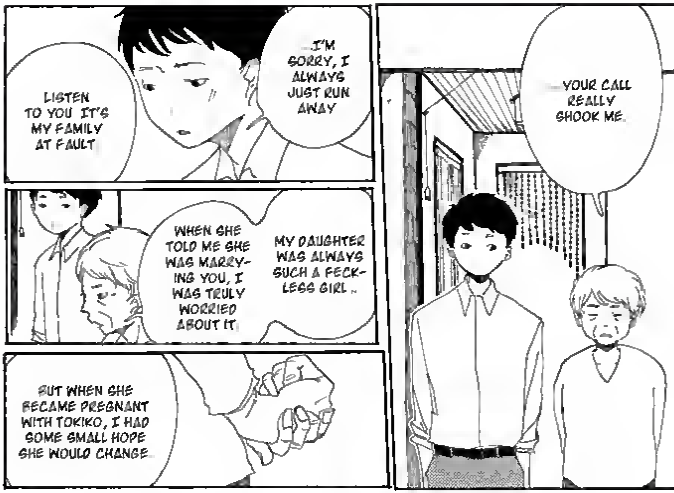

TOKI, YOU'VE GOTTEN SO BIG SINCE I LAST SAW YOU
WELL, THE LAST I SAW YOU WAS THE ONE TIME YOU VISITED WHEN YOU WERE FOUR
WE'RE GOING TO BE LIVING TOGETHER NO NEED TO FRET
IT'S OK!
THANK YOU
HAVING MY MOTHER-IN-LAW
COME AND PICK US UP I REALLY AM SORRY ABOUT THIS

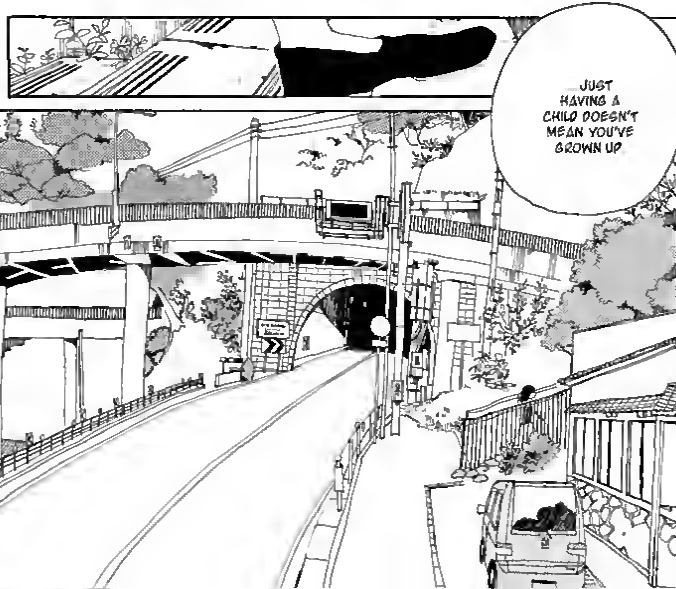
THOUGH YOU ALSO CAME HERE WHEN YOU WERE INSIDE YOUR MOTHER'S TUMMY
SHE TOLD ME THAT YOU'D KICK AWAY WHENEVER YOU HEARD THE SOUND OF THE WAVES
HUH...

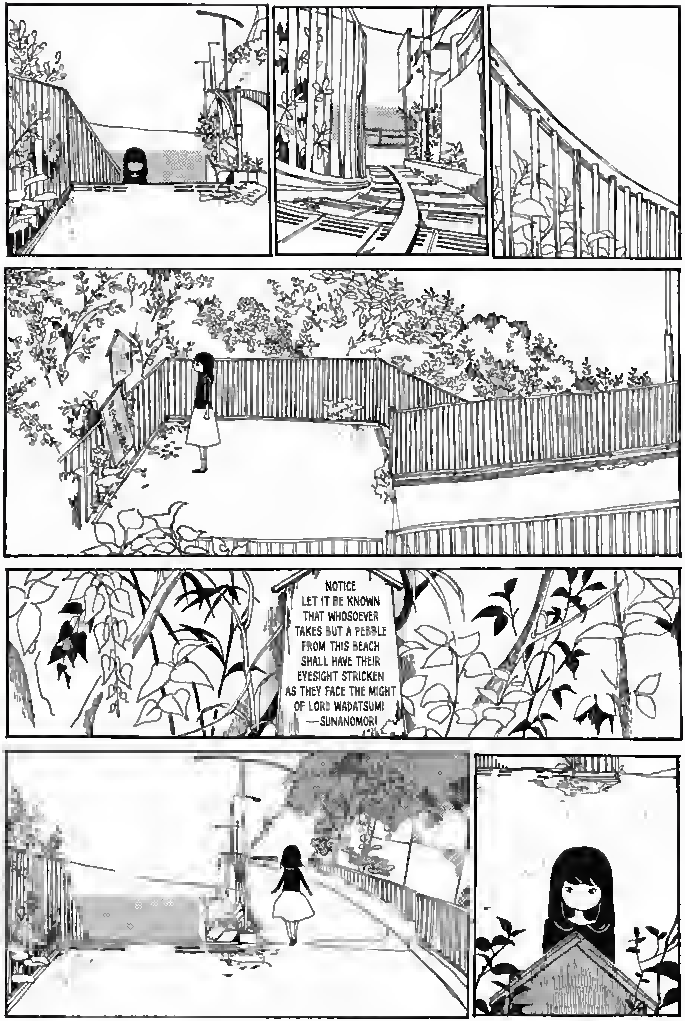

THE ROOM'S BEEN VACANT SINCE MY HUSBAND PASSED AWAY TWO YEARS AGO,
SO IT'LL BE GREAT TO HAVE YOU HERE
AND I WORK AT NIGHT, SO I'M ONLY IN THE HOUSE DURING THE DAY...

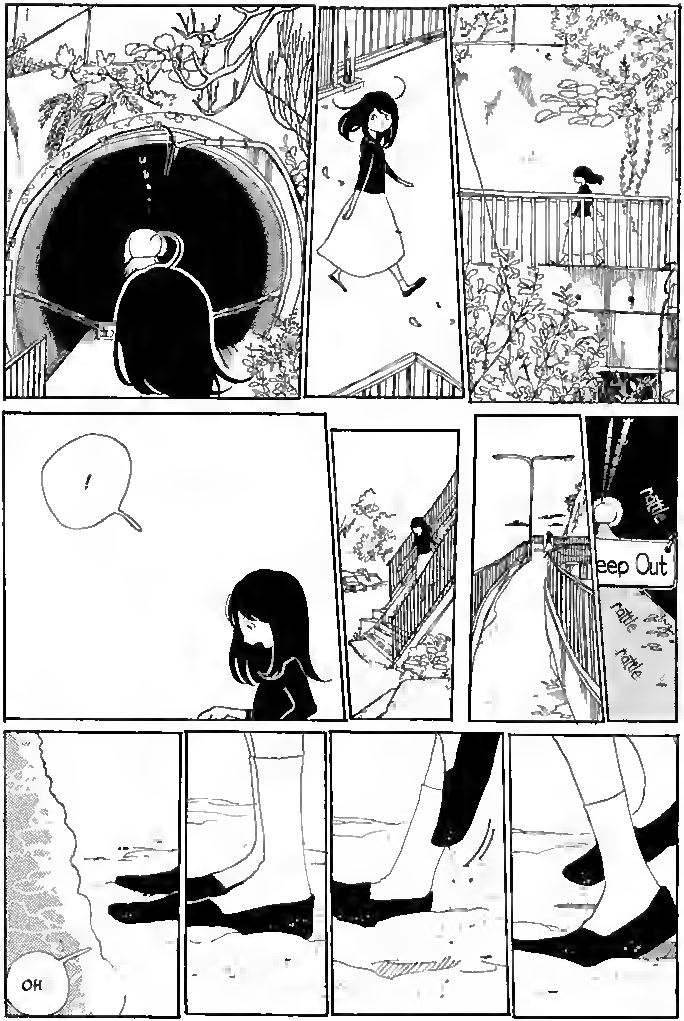
WHAT?
THIS IS YOUR ROOM. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT?
TOKI.
MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME
creak
creak
OUR APARTMENT IN TOKYO DIDN'T HAVE MANY ROOMS, SO SHE DIDN'T HAVE ONE OF HER OWN.
OH, REALLY?
YES
MY ROOM?
MY MOM...
THE DESK AND BED ARE JUST AS THEY WERE WHEN YOUR MOTHER USED THEM AS A CHILD.
THEN THIS IS NICE, YES?
YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH
TO HAVE YOUR OWN ROOM, TOKI

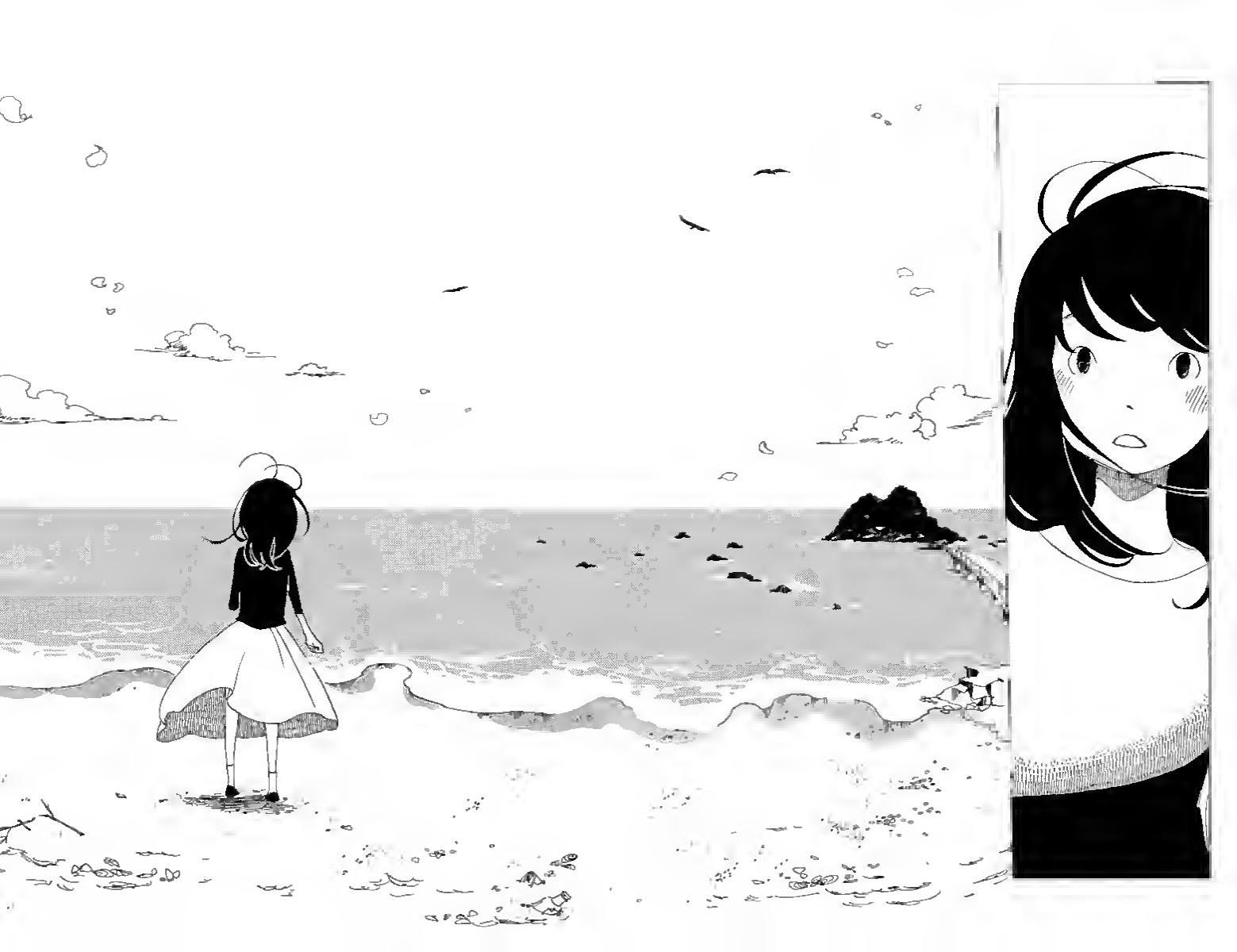
FEEL FREE TO USE THEM
THANKS!
WELL, I'LL BRING OVER THE REMAINING LUGGAGE WHILE WE WAIT FOR THE MOVERS
OK
DAD,
CAN I.. GO LOOK AT THE SEA?
SURE, BUT BE CARE-FUL
GOT IT
I'M OFF!
creak
DON'T GO INTO THE WATER NO MATTER WHAT IT'S DANGER-OUS
creak
TAKE CARE
COME HOME BEFORE IT GETS DARK

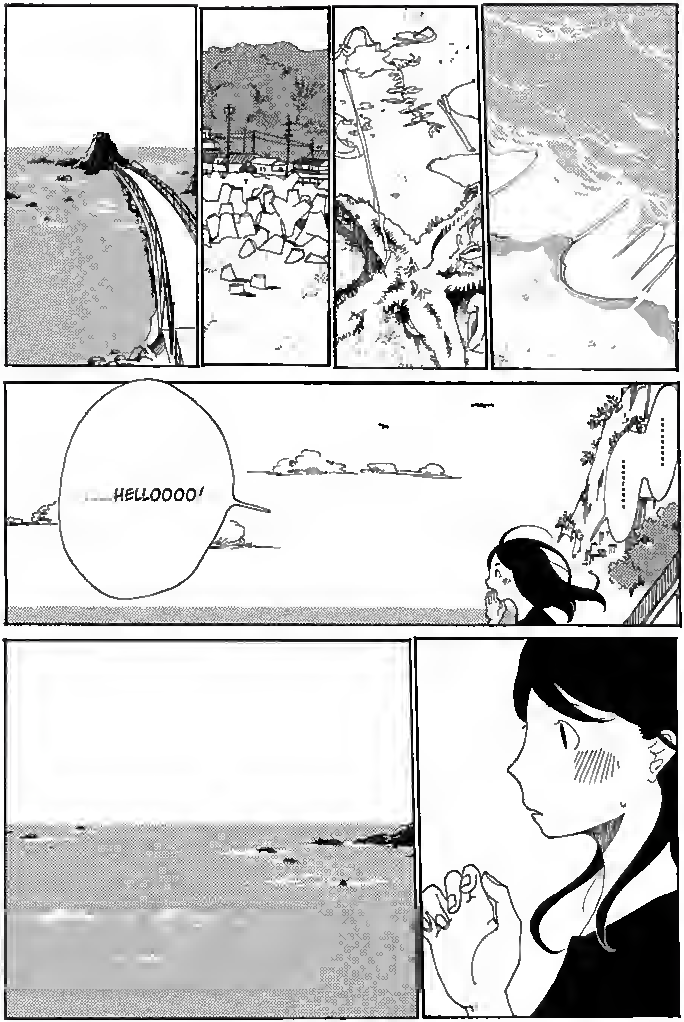

I'M SORRY, I ALWAYS JUST RUN AWAY
LISTEN TO YOU IT'S MY FAMILY AT FAULT
YOUR CALL REALLY SHOOK ME.
MY DAUGHTER WAS ALWAYS SUCH A FECKLESS GIRL..
WHEN SHE TOLD ME SHE WAS MARRYING YOU, I WAS TRULY WORRIED ABOUT IT.
BUT WHEN SHE BECAME PREGNANT WITH TOKIKO, I HAD SOME SMALL HOPE SHE WOULD CHANGE.


JUST HAVING A CHILD DOESN'T MEAN YOU'VE GROWN UP.

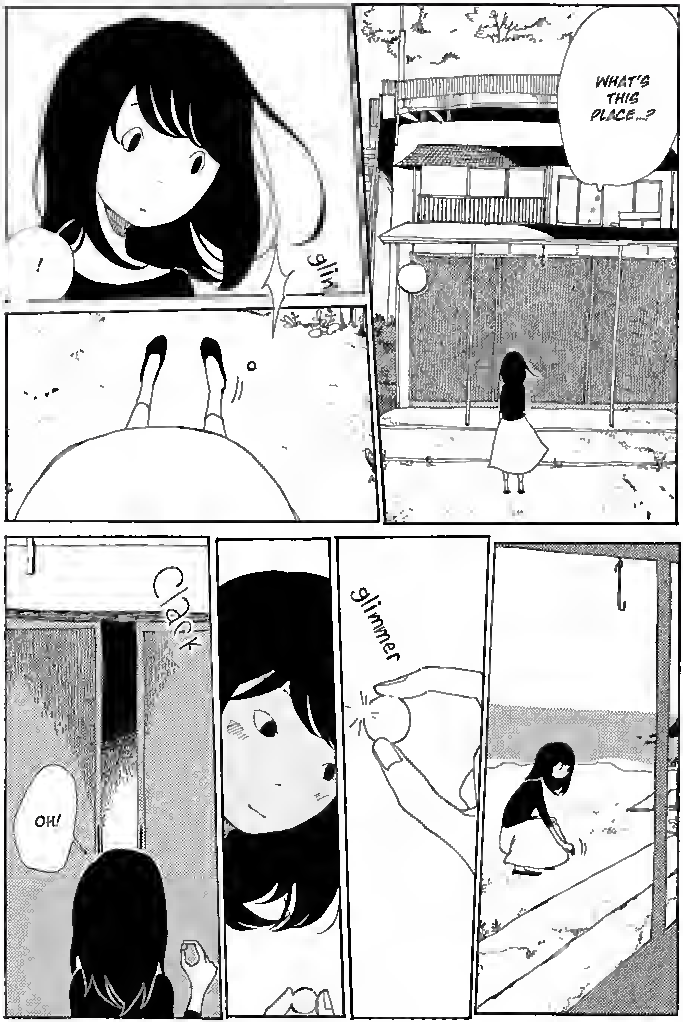

NOTICE
LET IT BE KNOWN
THAT WHOSOEVER
TAKES BUT A PEBBLE
FROM THIS BEACH
SHALL HAVE THEIR
EYESIGHT STRICKEN
AS THEY FACE THE MIGHT
OF LORD WADATSUMI
—SUNANOMORI


!
rattle
eep Out
rattle
rattle
OH

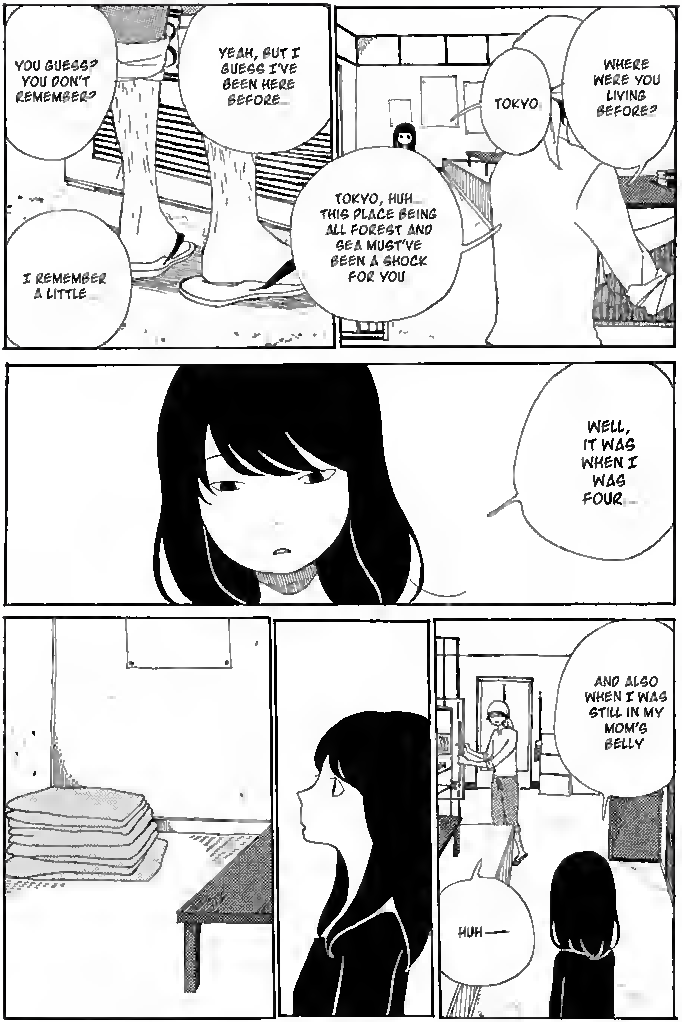



HELLOOOO!

SHOULD I HEAD BACK...?
YEAH RIGHT
?


WHAT'S THIS PLACE...?
!
glim
glimmer
clack
OH!

I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU BEFORE...
YOU'RE NOT FROM THIS TOWN.. NOPE
OH
WHERE ARE YOU FROM?
I GOT HERE TODAY
Rattle
SO THAT'S IT! YOU LIVING HERE?
AH!
COME ON IN
YES...
WHAT GRADE ARE YOU IN?
SIXTH GRADE...
MIKUMO...?
I SEE! HAVING MORE KIDS IN TOWN IS ALWAYS A GOOD THING
THEN YOU SHOULD BE WITH MIKUMO AND THE GANG!

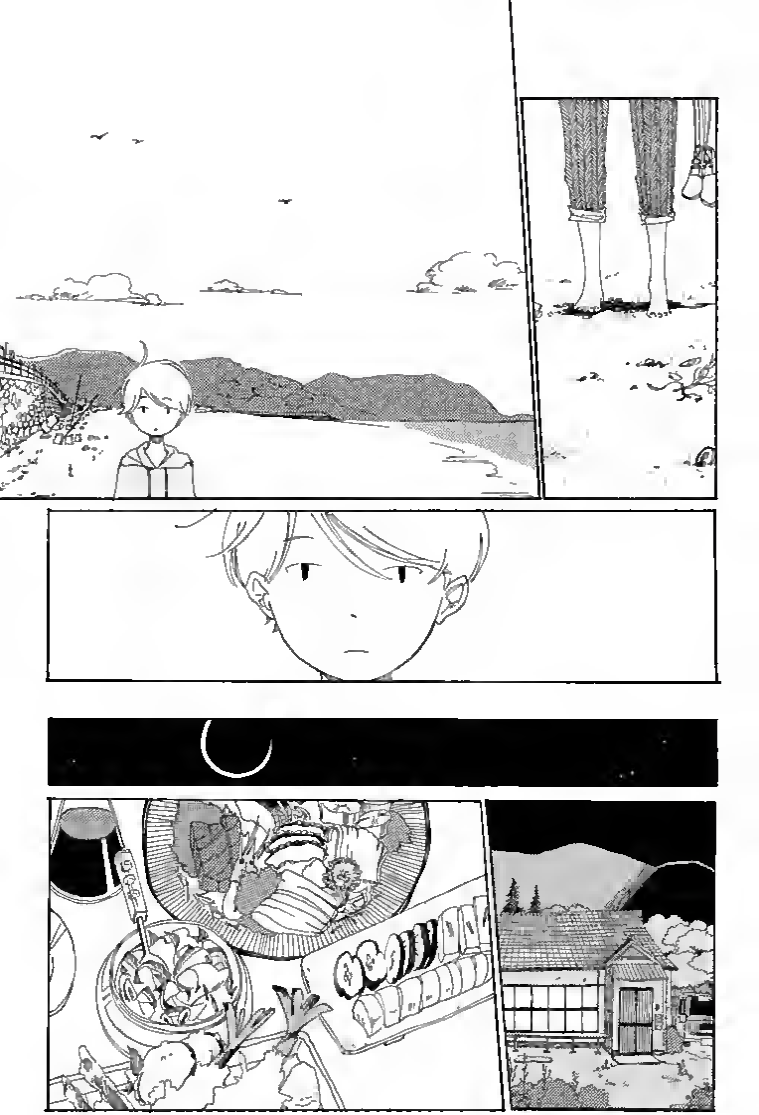

YOU GUESS? YOU DON'T REMEMBER?
YEAH, BUT I GUESS I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE...
I REMEMBER A LITTLE...
WHERE WERE YOU LIVING BEFORE?
TOKYO
TOKYO, HUH... THIS PLACE BEING ALL FOREST AND SEA MUST'VE BEEN A SHOCK FOR YOU
WELL, IT WAS WHEN I WAS FOUR...
AND ALSO WHEN I WAS STILL IN MY MOM'S BELLY
HUH——

Soy Ramen ¥500
Cold Noodles ¥400
Soda ¥200
Shaved Ice Melon Strawberry ¥300
PSSH
Open
Soda
TIP
clink
HELP YOURSELF
WANT TO SIT?
ALL THE KIDS IN THIS TOWN ARE FRIENDS
FRIENDS?
NO, UM.. I DIDN'T ORDER THAT
IT'S MY TREAT FOR MAKING NEW FRIENDS

RIGHT?
NEW FRIENDS
SO YOU'RE THEIR FRIEND TOO
THAT'S RIGHT, WHAT WERE YOU DOING ALL BY YOURSELF ON THE BEACH?
...I WAS LOOKING AT THE SEA
DID YOU SEE A MERMAID?
!
THERE... ARE MER-MAIDS?
YUP
THOUGH IT'S JUST A RUMOR

I WATCH THE SEA FROM HERE EVERY DAY,
AND I HAVEN'T SEEN ONE YET
BUT...
PEOPLE CAN'T YET TRAVEL TO THE DEEPEST DEPTHS OF THE SEA
WE HAVEN'T FINISHED DISCOVERING NEW CREATURES AND THINGS,
I FEEL THAT BY KEEPING OUR MINDS OPEN,
SO ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE
WE'LL BE ABLE TO DISCOVER THOSE ELUSIVE THINGS
IT'S A WONDERFUL ROUTINE TO WALK ALONG THE BEACH WHILE TRYING TO CATCH SIGHT OF SOMETHING

SO YOU'RE THEIR FRIEND TOO. NEW FRIENDS.
TOKIKO!
DINNER! COME ON BACK.
OK!

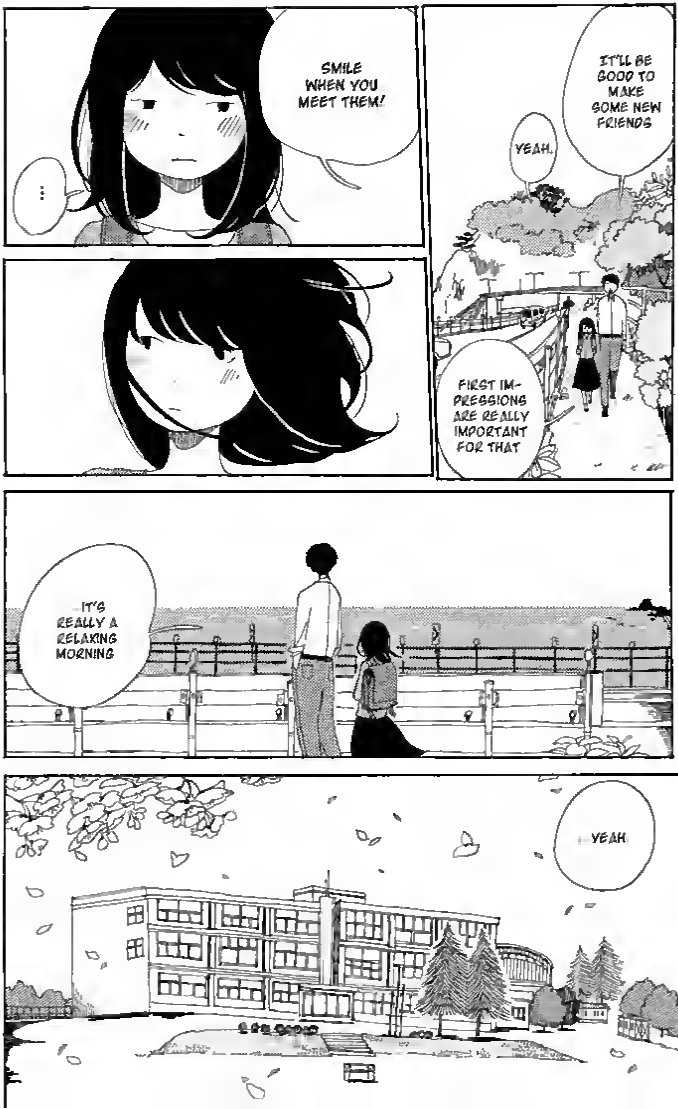


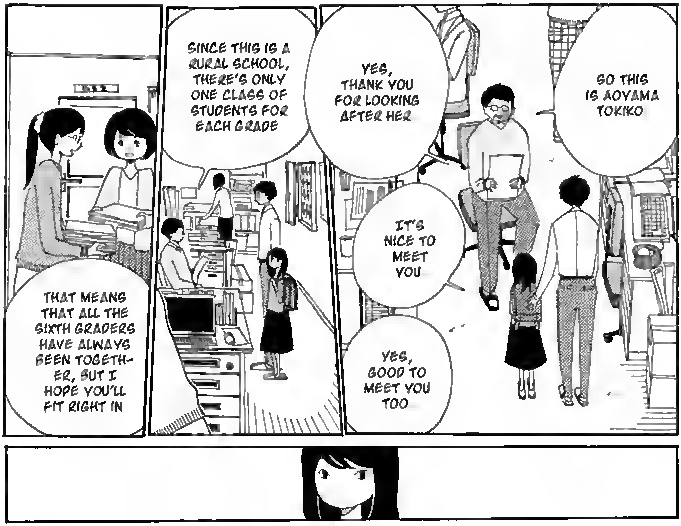
OR DO YOU PREFER WESTERN-STYLE FOOD, TOKI?
NO, I LIKE RAW FISH
SURE
SORRY, I'LL HAVE TO LEAVE THE CLEAN-UP TO YOU
OK.
WHAT A MEAL!
I CAN'T MAKE THIS EVERY DAY, OF COURSE, BUT TODAY'S SPECIAL
GREAT.
OK, I'M OFF TO WORK.
TAKE CARE
SEE YOU LATER!
A LITTLE
TODAY WAS TIRING, WASN'T IT?
OK.
OH, AND WE HAVE TO PRACTICE YOUR CLASS INTRODUCTION!
YOU'LL BE STARTING AT YOUR NEW SCHOOL TOMORROW, SO YOU SHOULD GO TO BED EARLY
NOPE
Not happening
Aha ha...

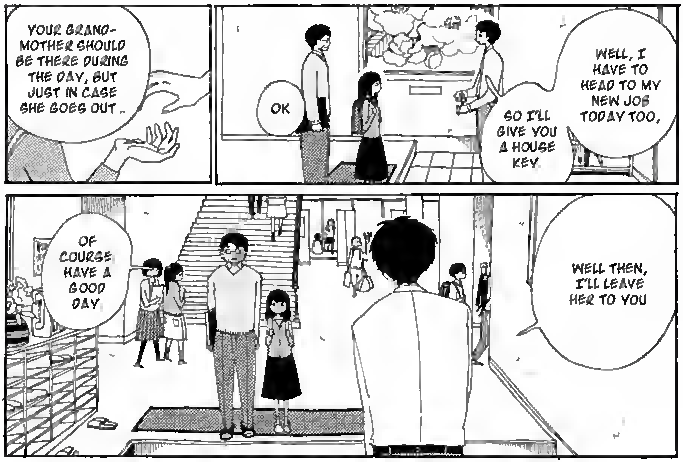
CLICK
I CAN HEAR THE SOUND OF THE WAVES..
SPLSH
SPLSH SPLSH
Ever since the day I nearly drowned in the sea,
I haven't been able to stop thinking about it.
COZY...
REDRAD
GRANDMA SET UP THE FUTON FOR ME
patter

MAYBE I CAN MEET HIM NOW THAT I'M IN THIS TOWN...
IF I LOOK FOR HIM EVERY DAY THEN ONE DAY...
.....
and tell him
"Thank you for saving me that day."
.....
Maybe I can meet him again some day?
I want to meet him just one more time

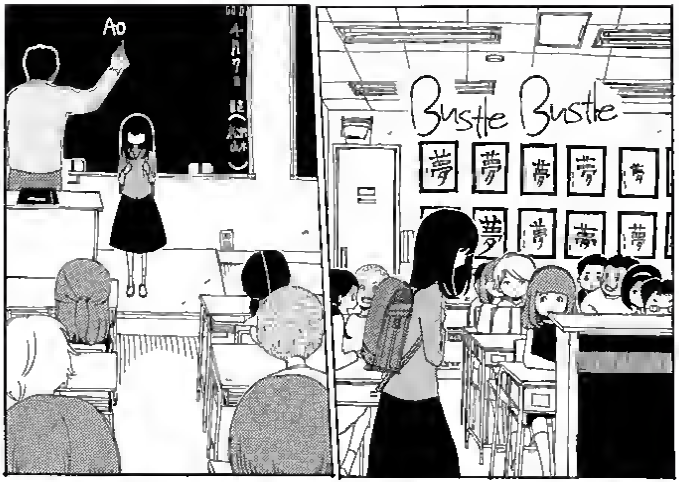
YOU DIDN'T FORGET ANYTHING?
I DON'T THINK SO


SMILE WHEN YOU MEET THEM!
...
IT'LL BE GOOD TO MAKE SOME NEW FRIENDS
YEAH.
FIRST IMPRESSIONS ARE REALLY IMPORTANT FOR THAT
IT'S REALLY A RELAXING MORNING
YEAH.


SO THIS IS AOYAMA TOKIKO
YES, THANK YOU FOR LOOKING AFTER HER
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU
YES, GOOD TO MEET YOU TOO
SINCE THIS IS A RURAL SCHOOL, THERE'S ONLY ONE CLASS OF STUDENTS FOR EACH GRADE
THAT MEANS THAT ALL THE SIXTH GRADERS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN TOGETHER, BUT I HOPE YOU'LL FIT RIGHT IN


WELL, I HAVE TO HEAD TO MY NEW JOB TODAY TOO,
SO I'LL GIVE YOU A HOUSE KEY
OK
YOUR GRANDMOTHER SHOULD BE THERE DURING THE DAY, BUT JUST IN CASE SHE GOES OUT..
WELL THEN, I'LL LEAVE HER TO YOU
OF COURSE HAVE A GOOD DAY

Grade 6
OK EVERY-ONE!
PLEASE TAKE YOUR SEATS
STAND
BOW
SIT DOWN
CLASS HELPER, IF YOU WOULD
STARTING TODAY, YOU'RE ALL SIXTH GRADERS
LET'S HOLD ONTO THAT EXCITEMENT UNTIL YOU GRADUATE
bdmp
bdmp
bdmp
NOW THEN, THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL START AT NINE, BUT BEFORE THAT I HAVE SOME NEWS
bdmp
COME ON IN, AOYAMA

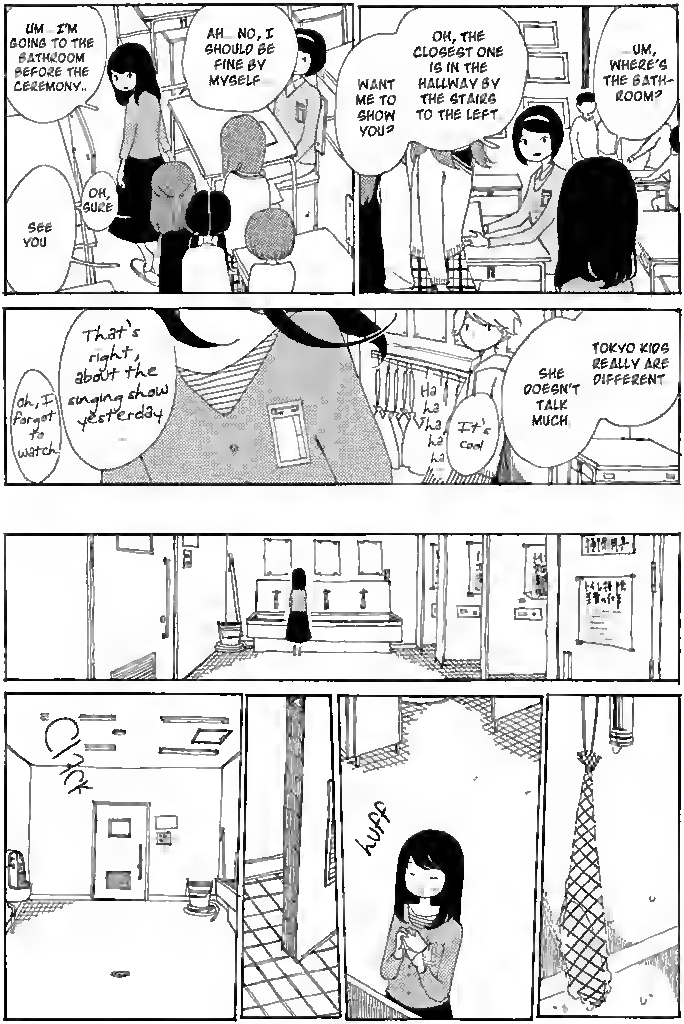

Ao
Bustle Bustle
夢 夢 夢 夢 夢
夢 夢 夢 夢 夢

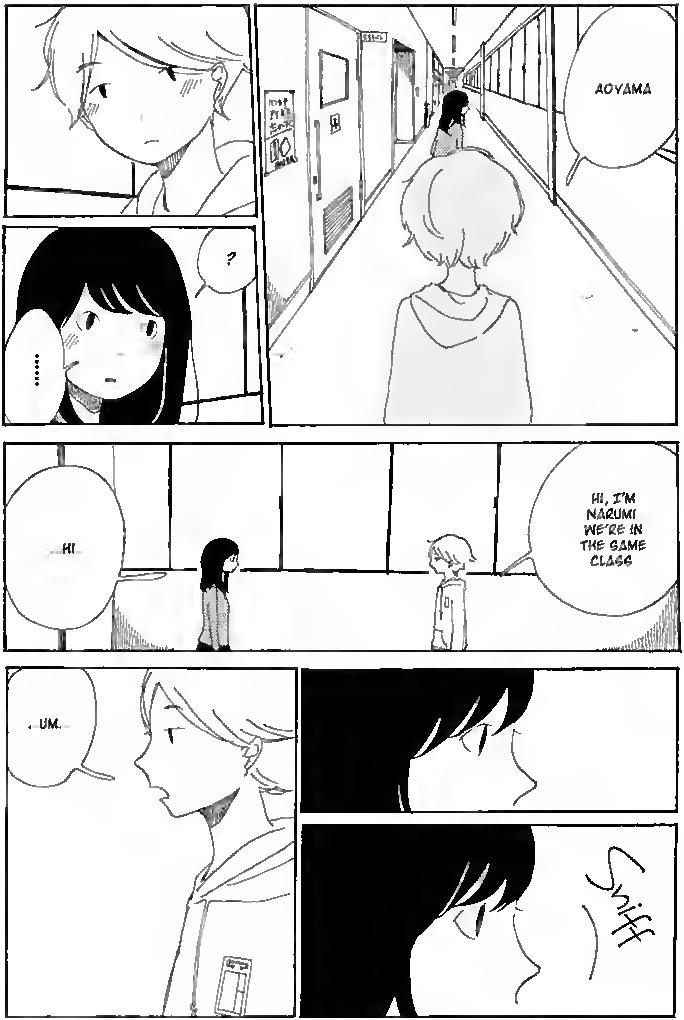
I CAME HERE FROM TOKYO.
MY NAME IS AOYAMA TOKIKO.
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU.

YES!
MIKUMO
Whoa!
I'VE SEEN IT IN BOOKS
Isn't the SKY tree in TOKYO?
TOKYO! WOW!
WHERE IN TOKYO?
BE QUIET, EVERYONE! SETTLE DOWN.
MIKUMO IS THE CLASS REPRESENTATIVE
YOU'LL BE SITTING NEXT TO HER

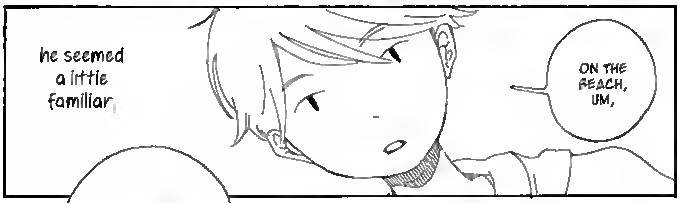
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU.
Y... YOU TOO!
LINE UP AND FORM A LINE IN THE HALLWAY PRIOR TO THE OPENING CEREMONY
CLASS REP, TAKE OVER.

STAND
BOW
SIT DOWN
SURE SURE
HUH?
When our teacher returns, we'll go to the gym
WHEN THE BREAK'S OVER, LINE UP IN THE HALLWAY BY HEIGHT
HEY, GIRLS!
ALL YOUR SQUEALING IS GETTING ON OUR NERVES!
WHERE DID YOU LIVE IN TOKYO?
EVERYONE IN TOKYO BUYS THEIR CLOTHES IN HARAJUKU, RIGHT?
IS IT TRUE THAT EVEN GRADE SCHOOLERS WEAR MAKE-UP !?
HEY HEY! CAN YOU REALLY SEE CELEBRITIES JUST WALKING AROUND TOKYO?
MY MOM TOLD ME THE TRAINS ARE PACKED WITH PEOPLE IN THE MORNING
SHUT IT!
YOU BOYS ARE THE ANNOYING ONES WITH ALL YOUR YELLING!
SHUT UP, UGLY!
SHUT YOUR MOUTH, YOU MONKEY!

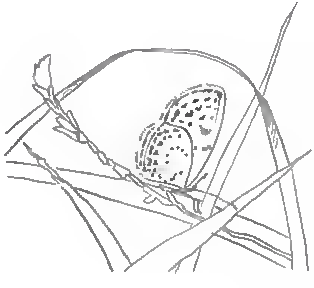

UM... I'M GOING TO THE BATHROOM BEFORE THE CEREMONY..
AH... NO, I SHOULD BE FINE BY MYSELF
OH, SURE
SEE YOU
WANT ME TO SHOW YOU?
OH, THE CLOSEST ONE IS IN THE HALLWAY BY THE STAIRS TO THE LEFT
UM, WHERE'S THE BATHROOM?
That's right, about the singing show yesterday
Oh, I forgot to watch.
Ha ha ha ha ha
It's cool
SHE DOESN'T TALK MUCH
TOKYO KIDS REALLY ARE DIFFERENT
OK
KUSU


AOYAMA
?
.....
HI
HI, I'M NARUMI WE'RE IN THE SAME CLASS
. UM..
Sniff

it was my first time meeting him
YOU WERE OUT ON THE BEACH YESTERDAY
HUH?
But for some reason


he seemed a little familiar
ON THE BEACH, UM,

DID YOU SEE ANYTHING?
and he smelled like the sea



Lovely StrangeDark

lovelystrangedark.wordpress.com

AOI UROKO TO SUNA NO MACHI

"THE TOWN OF BLUE SCALES AND SAND"

BY KOMORI YOUKO

CHAPTER 2

Raws: kuinni

Translated: Kalenael

Edited: Ximena

QC: Ianu

GOOD MORNING EVERYONE TODAY BEGINS THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR
ALL YOU SIXTH GRADERS ARE ALMOST READY TO GRADUATE FROM THIS SCHOOL.
DID YOU HAVE A PRODUCTIVE SPRING VACATION?

YESTERDAY ON THE BEACH, DID YOU SEE SOMETHING?
I DIDN'T.
.....
I...
DIDN'T...

[Two]
The Deep Sea

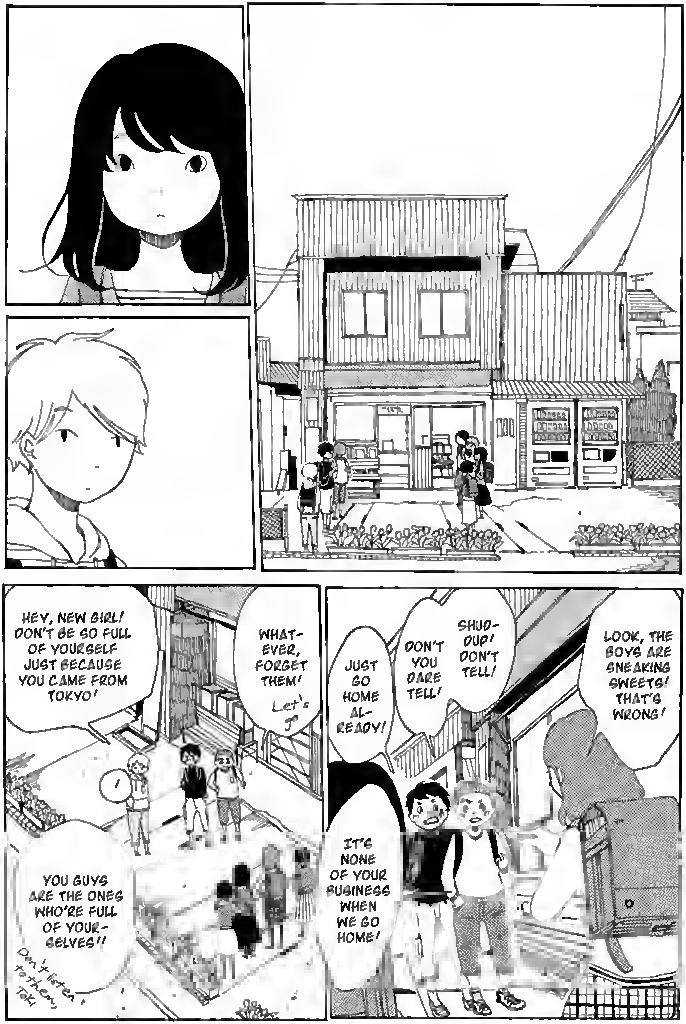
DO YOU GO TO THE BEACH A LOT?
WHEN I'M FREE.
YEAH.
MA— MARUMI, RIGHT? WERE YOU ON THE BEACH YESTER-DAY?
...OH, THEN NEVER-MIND...
HAVE YOU EVER... SEEN A MERMAID?
...WHY?
UM... I WAS TALKING TO THE MAN AT THE BEACH SHOP, AND HE SAID THERE MIGHT BE MERMAIDS...
NO.
...MER-MAID?
.....

ding
dong
ding
dong
THEY'LL LAUGH AT YOU AND CALL YOU A WEIRDO
YOU CAN BELIEVE WHATEVER YOU WANT... BUT YOU SHOULDN'T ASK PEOPLE STUFF LIKE THAT.
dong
ding
dong
ding
AOYAMA, WHERE'S YOUR HOUSE?
I LIVE IN THE SAME DIRECTION, THOUGH. WE COULD WALK HOME TOGETHER PARTWAY, IF YOU WANT?
OH, OVER THERE? THAT'S PRETTY FAR.
Um...
NEAR THE BRIDGE YOU GET TO WHEN YOU WALK ALL THE WAY DOWN THE BEACH FROM THE TRAIN STATION...

OK, EVERYONE BE SEATED
CLASS HELPER, GO AHEAD WITH THE DAILY WRAP-UP
SURE
TODAY IS A HALF-DAY, BUT STARTING TOMORROW WE'LL BEGIN OUR REGULAR LESSONS
LOOK OVER THE SCHEDULE CAREFULLY SO YOU DON'T FORGET TO BRING ANYTHING
LET'S START THE WRAP-UP
FIRST OUR TEACHER WILL SPEAK.
DON'T GO ANYWHERE DANGEROUS WHILE YOU'RE OUT PLAYING THIS AFTER-NOON
THAT'S IT FROM ME
NEXT, THE HELPER'S PHONE NUMBER
...
YES EVERY-ONE, YOU DID WELL TODAY AT THE OPENING CEREMONY
DID YOU PAY ATTENTION TO EVERY-THING THEY SAID?
THAT CON-CLUDES THE DAILY WRAP-UP
GOOD-BYE
RIGHT, GOODBYE
Goodbye!

AOYAMA, CAN WE WALK WITH YOU TOO?
SURE
WANT TO GO?
OH, SURE
LET'S ALL MEET UP AT YOSHIDA'S AFTER LUNCH!
YEAH!
Let's buy something at Kimi's store first!
MY MOM AND I ARE GOING TO SHIDAHAMA TO SEE A MOVIE LATER TODAY
Lucky
NOZOMI
I'M SAYU
NICE TO MEET YOU
YOU TOO
SAME WITH CELEBRITIES YOU SEE THEM SOMETIMES, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S ALL THE TIME
THERE ARE SOME KIDS INTO FASHION, BUT THERE ARE ALSO A LOT WHO AREN'T
KIDS IN TOKYO REALLY AREN'T ALL THAT DIFFERENT FROM KIDS HERE

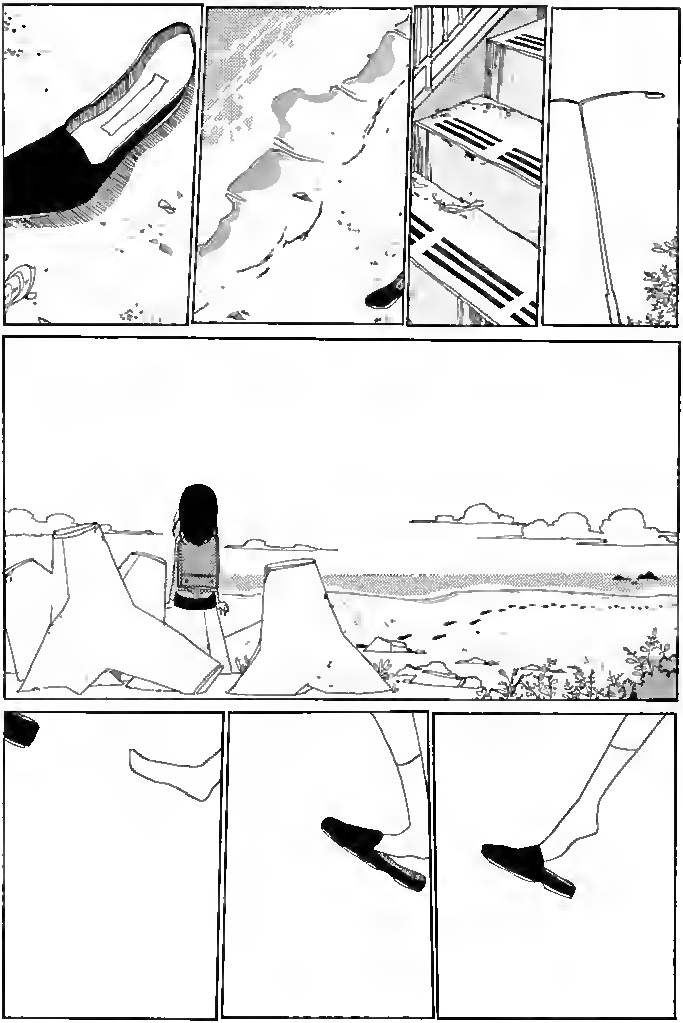
AOYAMA, WHAT'S YOUR FIRST NAME?
TOKIKO
THEN
TOKIKO ...?
SURE
S—
CAN I CALL YOU TOKI?
TOKI!
HUH...
SORRY IF THAT'S A LETDOWN..
NO, IT'S KIND OF A RELIEF
YEAH.
.....
OH.
YEAH
AND ME?
Great! ME TOO?
YOU DON'T MIND?
NOPE
OH


HEY, NEW GIRL! DON'T BE SO FULL OF YOURSELF JUST BECAUSE YOU CAME FROM TOKYO!
WHATEVER, FORGET THEM! Let's go
YOU GUYS ARE THE ONES WHO'RE FULL OF YOURSELVES!!
Don't listen to them, Yuki
JUST GO HOME ALREADY!
DON'T YOU DARE TELL!
SHUDDUP! DON'T TELL!
LOOK, THE BOYS ARE SNEAKING SWEETS! THAT'S WRONG!
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS WHEN WE GO HOME!

HEY NEW GIRL, WHY'D YOU TRANSFER SCHOOLS THIS YEAR ANYWAY?
YEAH, WHY?
.....
BECAUSE OF MY PARENTS
Geez, again with the "Ugly"
THEY'RE JUST LIKE THE MONKEYS AT THE ZOO
WHO'S A MONKEY? UGLY!
HEY LET'S GO
I'm angry
YEAH.
WHY'D YOU COME HERE FOR YOUR LAST YEAR?
It's weird
C'MON, YOU GRADUATE AFTER SIXTH GRADE
WHY'D YOU TRANSFER SCHOOLS THIS YEAR?
YOU GOT BULLIED, DIDN'T YA?
HEY, CUT IT OUT
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN AT YOUR OLD SCHOOL?
WHAD'YA MEAN, YOUR PARENTS?
.....
TOKKO
Tok?
Tok? What's wrong?
Just ignore them
WHAD'YA MEAN, YOUR PARENTS?
WHAD'YA MEAN, YOUR PARENTS?

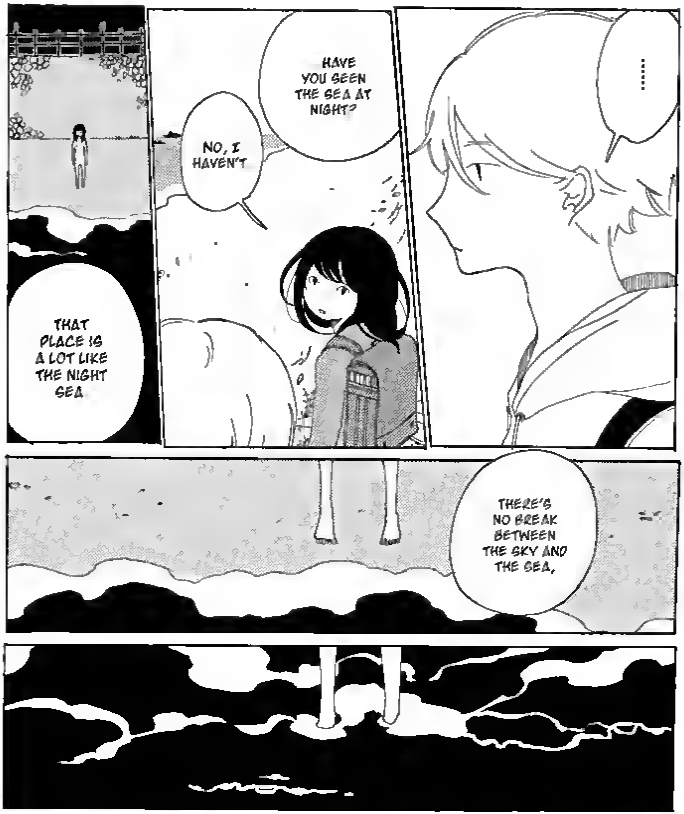
LET'S GO TO THE TOWN WHERE YOUR MOM WAS BORN.
TOKI!
OH

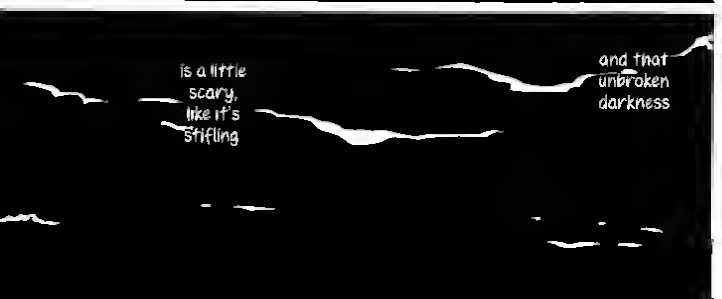
IT'S GOTTA BE SOMETHING BAD, YOU KNOW!?
WHY!?
HEY, BOYS!
APOLOGIZE!
NEW GIRL..
HEY..!
MAN...
MAKE SURE YOU APOLOGIZE TO HER TOMORROW
AH..!
TOKI!

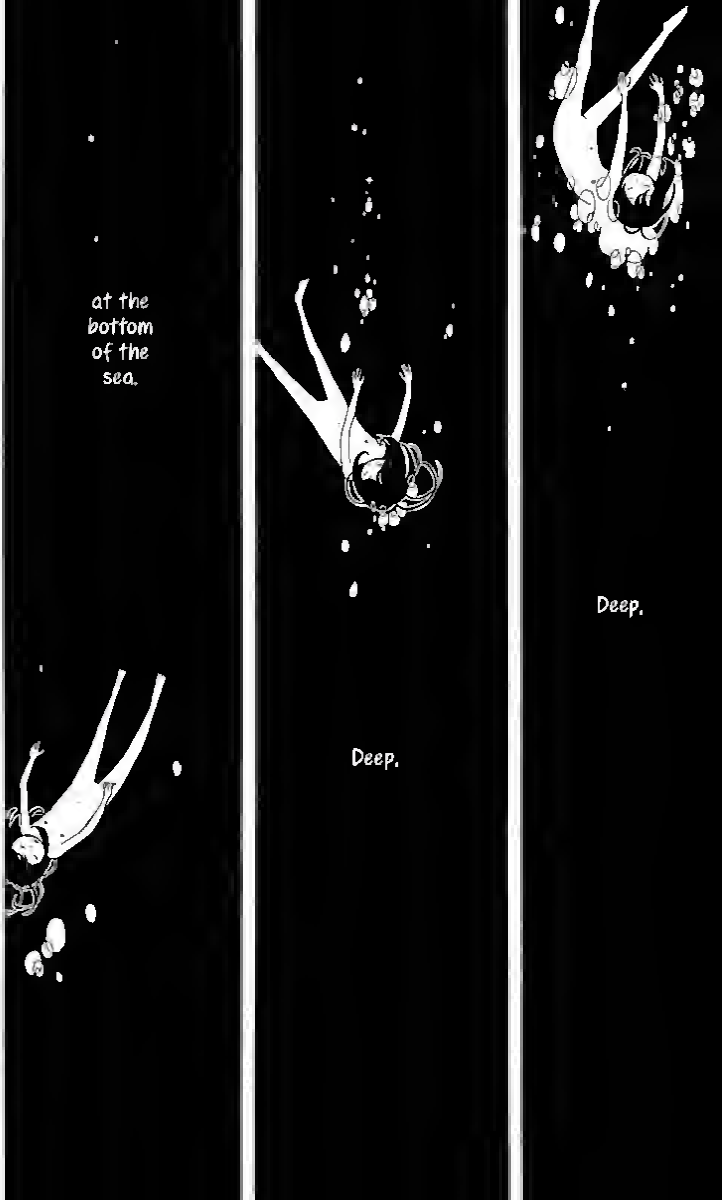


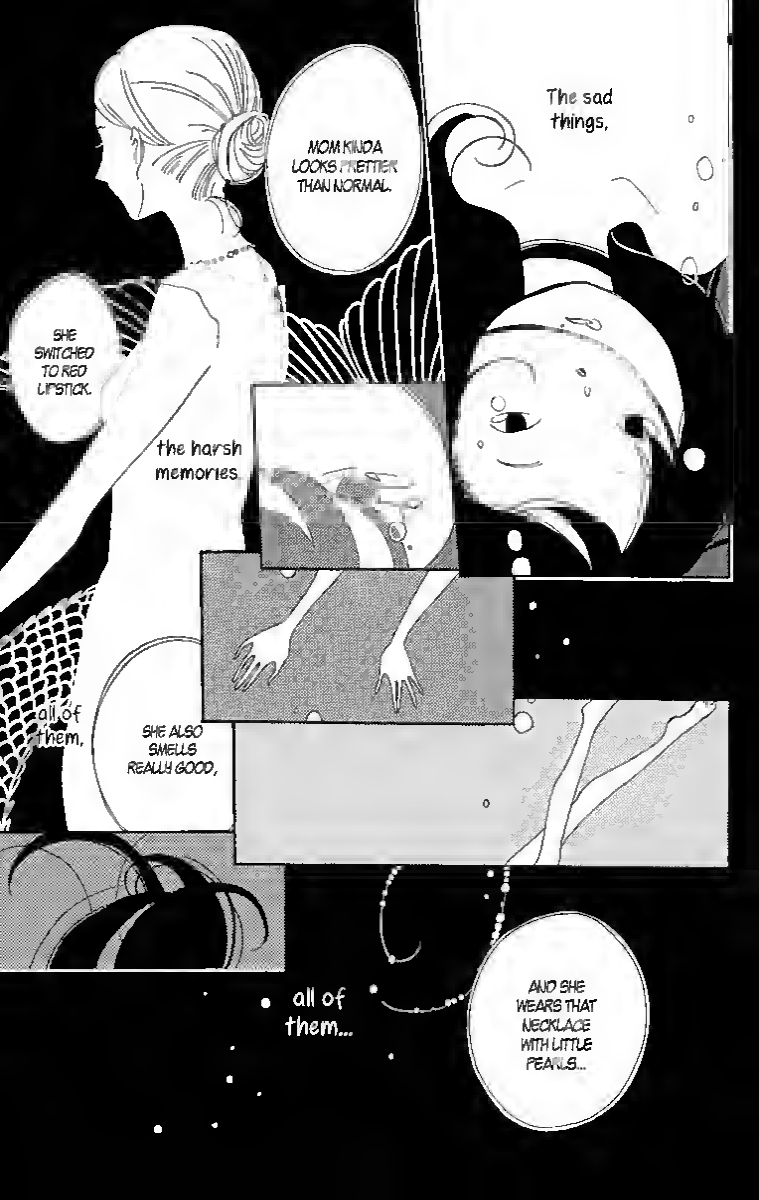
...YOU'RE NOT GOING HOME?
...
I'M GOING...
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
IF YOU DON'T GET HOME SOON, WON'T YOUR PARENTS GET WORRIED?
...
MY FOLKS WORK LATE, SO I'M FREE...

...THOSE GUYS FEEL BAD ABOUT IT TOO
I THINK...
THE GIRLS WERE WORRIED, THOUGH.
THEY'LL APOLOGIZE TOMORROW
...
BUT YOU KNOW, IF YOU CRY EVERY TIME YOU GET TEASED A LITTLE, YOU'RE GONNA HAVE IT ROUGH
DON'T CRY
AND WE DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, EITHER...
NOT THAT I WANT TO...
...
...BUT OTHER PEOPLE CAN'T SEE WHAT'S INSIDE SOMEONE
IT'S A DEEP, DARK,
LONELY PLACE...


HAVE YOU SEEN THE SEA AT NIGHT?
NO, I HAVEN'T
THAT PLACE IS A LOT LIKE THE NIGHT SEA
.....
THERE'S NO BREAK BETWEEN THE SKY AND THE SEA,


is a little scary, like it's stifling
and that unbroken darkness

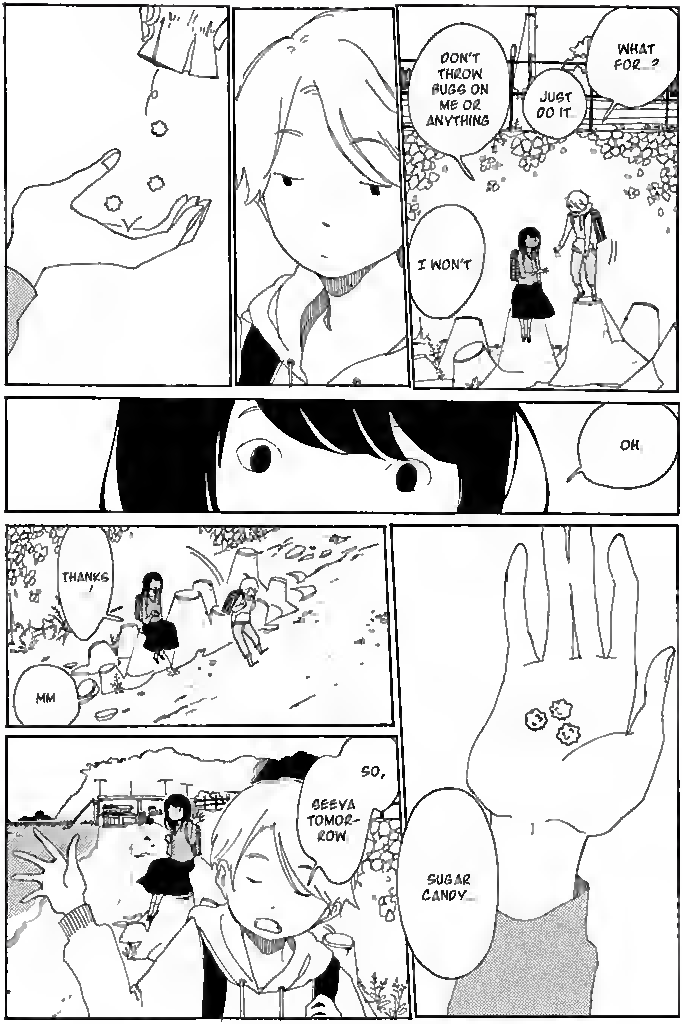

at the bottom of the sea.
Deep.
Deep.


The sad things,
MOM KINDA LOOKS PRETTIER THAN NORMAL.
SHE SWITCHED TO RED LIPSTICK.
the harsh memories.
all of them,
SHE ALSO SMELLS REALLY GOOD,
all of them...
AND SHE WEARS THAT NECKLACE WITH LITTLE PEARLS...

I imagine that they're all locked away at the bottom of the sea.

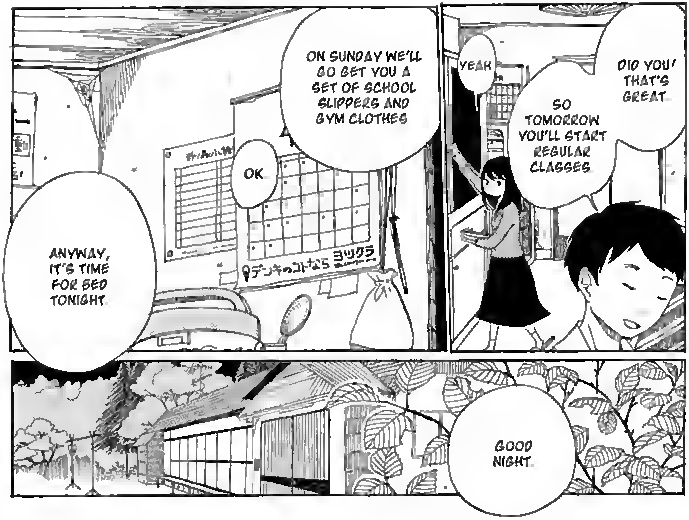
WHO WAS THAT GUY YOU WERE WITH?
MOM, I SAW YOU ON MY WAY HOME FROM CRAM SCHOOL.
AND WHEN YOU HAVE TO LOOK INSIDE THOSE BOXES AGAIN, IT'LL HURT ENOUGH TO KNOCK THE WIND OUT OF YOU
THEY'LL FLOAT BACK TO THE SURFACE
BUT IF YOU LOCK THEM AWAY DOWN THERE,

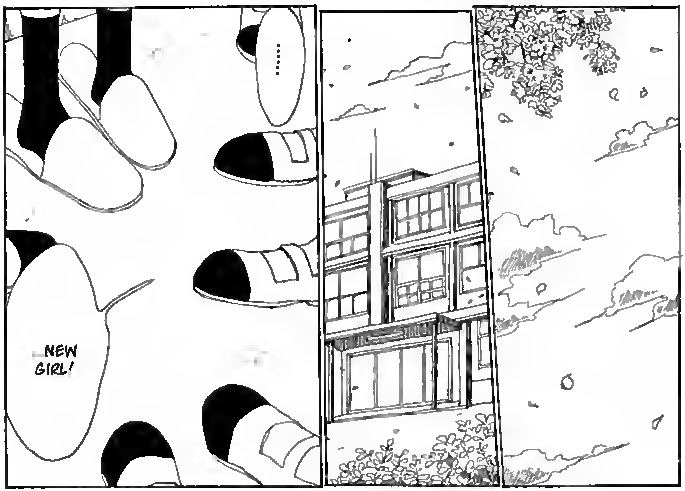
.....
...YEAH.
SIMPLE, RIGHT?
SO IT'S BETTER TO JUST LEAVE THEM FLOATING ON THE SURFACE OF THE SEA.
OH, I FORGOT
I SHOULD GO HOME
ANY-WAY,
HOLD OUT
YOUR HAND


WHAT FOR...?
JUST DO IT
DON'T THROW BUGS ON ME OR ANYTHING
I WON'T
OH
THANKS
MM
SO, SEEYA TOMOR-ROW
SUGAR CANDY...

THEY'RE THE COLOR OF THE SEA
...OH

THEY TASTE LIKE SODA...
I don't know why,
but when the candy in my mouth softly melted away,
it hurt a little.
...NARUMI'S NOT SO EASY TO UNDER-STAND
HOW WAS SCHOOL?
IT WAS OK.
DID YOU MAKE ANY FRIENDS?
...
...YEAH.


ON SUNDAY WE'LL GO GET YOU A SET OF SCHOOL SLIPPERS AND GYM CLOTHES
OK
ANYWAY, IT'S TIME FOR BED TONIGHT
YEAH
DID YOU! THAT'S GREAT
SO TOMORROW YOU'LL START REGULAR CLASSES
GOOD NIGHT


.....
NEW GIRL!

WE'RE SORRY!
SORRY, TOKI.
IT'S OUR FAULT FOR NOT KEEPING THEM IN CHECK, TOO
HUH?
NO... I'M THE ONE WHO HAS TO APOLOGIZE FOR RUNNING OFF LIKE THAT
UM...
DON'T BOW...
I'M NOT REALLY MAD, IT'S OK.

I DON'T REALLY KNOW THIS PLACE WELL YET...
AND I'M NOT USED TO IT ALL, SO...
I'M UNEASY
THAT'S WHY
BUT I WAS A LITTLE SAD
YEAH,
I'M NOT MAD
REALLY!?
I
THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE NICE IF WE COULD BE FRIENDS
...!
GUESS WE HAVE TO'

I was always afraid without knowing why
NEW GIRL!
JUST YOU WAIT AND SEE!
MORNING
GOOD MORNING!
ALRIGHT, EVERYONE INTO THE CLASSROOM
OK!
Grade 6
Like a lost child searching for some-thing.
LET'S BEGIN CLASS

But in this town,
each time I hear the sound of waves
I feel like I'll find both my way home
as well as
that I'm searching for.

know
I'll find
them.
I just
feel
that
way.
Somehow.

Lovely StrangeDark

lovelystrangedark.wordpress.com

AOI UROKO TO SUNA NO MACHI

"THE TOWN OF BLUE SCALES AND SAND"

BY KOMORI YOUKO

CHAPTER 3

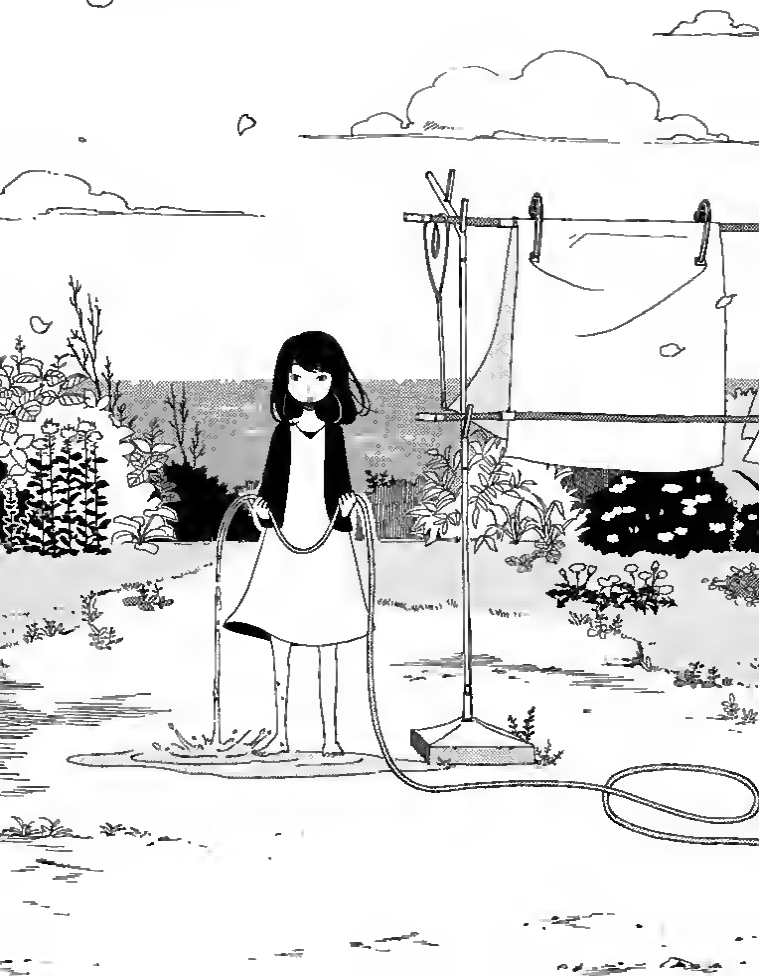
Raws: kuinni

Translated: Kalenael

Edited: Ximena

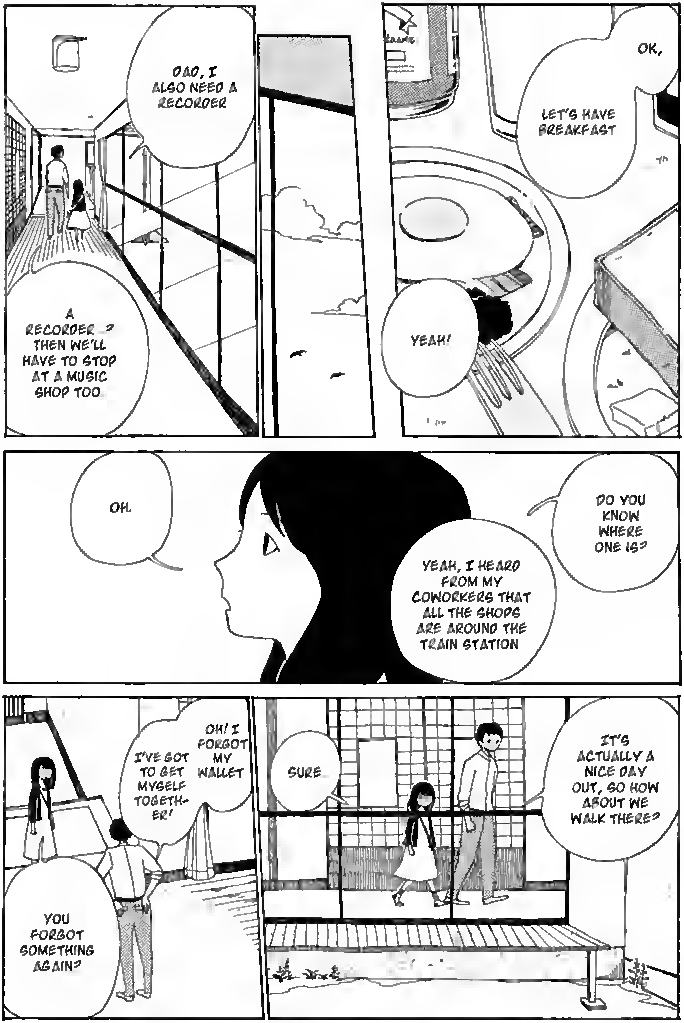
QC: Ianu

[Three]
Lapping at the Shore

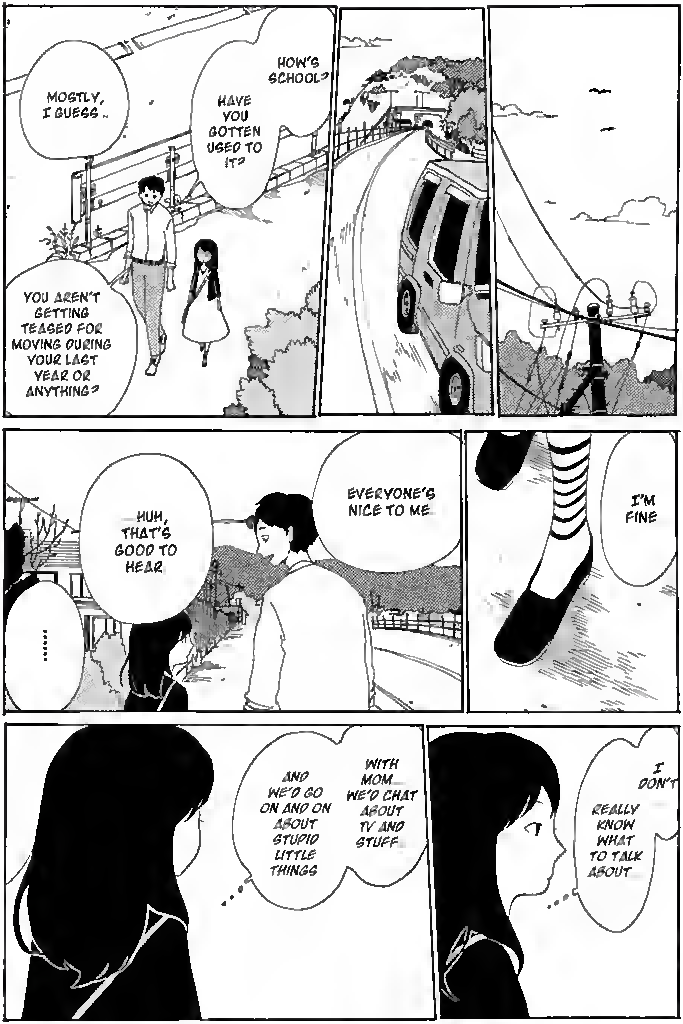


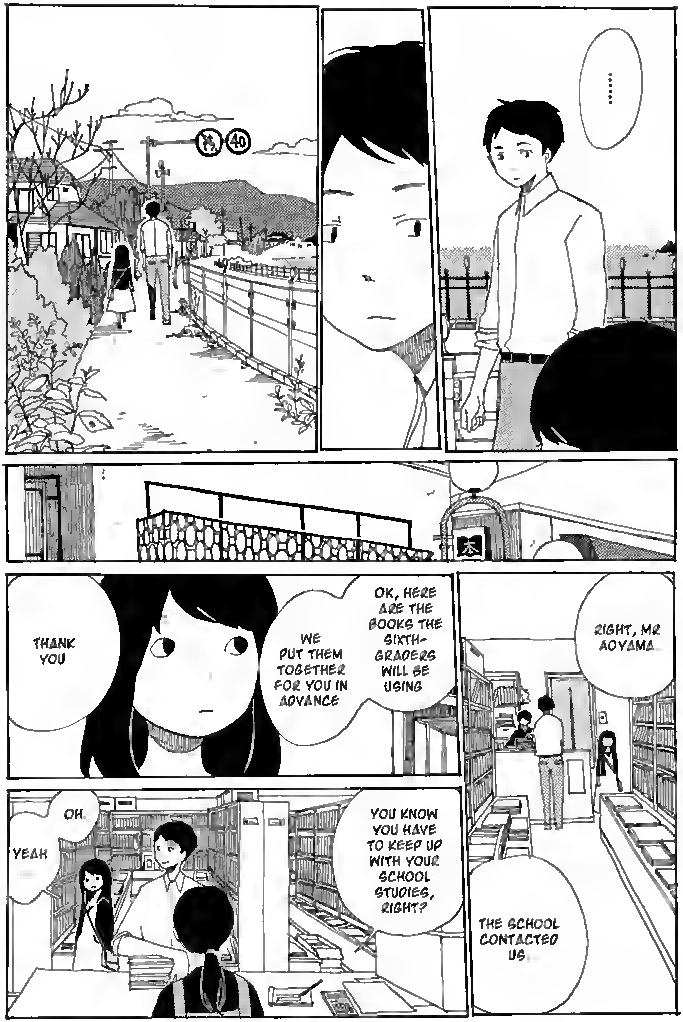
NOTE-BOOK,
SLIPPERS,
GYM CLOTHES
hopping
. Textbooks
. Notebook
. Slippers
. Gym clothes
TEXT-BOOKS,
OH, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
TODAY'S SUNDAY, SO I THOUGHT WE'D GO SHOPPING. I'M WRITING OUT A LIST

LITTLE THINGS LIKE THAT ARE REALLY IMPORTANT TO KIDS
HAVE FUN WHILE YOU'RE AT IT
WE'RE JUST GOING TO BUY THE THINGS TOKIKO NEEDS FOR SCHOOL, THOUGH
YOU NEED A BUNCH OF THINGS, HMM.
HOW NICE. THE WEATHER'S LOVELY TODAY, TOO.
MORNING, DAD
MORNING
GOOD MORNING
DID YOU SLEEP WELL?
GOOD MORNING
TODAY WE'LL GO SHOPPING AFTER BREAKFAST.
OK
YEAH.
OK
GO AHEAD AND ADD IT.
IF THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE YOU NEED NOT ON THE LIST,


OAO, I ALSO NEED A RECORDER
A RECORDER ? THEN WE'LL HAVE TO STOP AT A MUSIC SHOP TOO.
OK,
LET'S HAVE BREAKFAST
YEAH!
OH.
YEAH, I HEARD FROM MY COWORKERS THAT ALL THE SHOPS ARE AROUND THE TRAIN STATION
DO YOU KNOW WHERE ONE IS?
YOU FORGOT SOMETHING AGAIN?
I'VE GOT TO GET MYSELF TOGETHER!
OH! I FORGOT MY WALLET
SURE
IT'S ACTUALLY A NICE DAY OUT, SO HOW ABOUT WE WALK THERE?

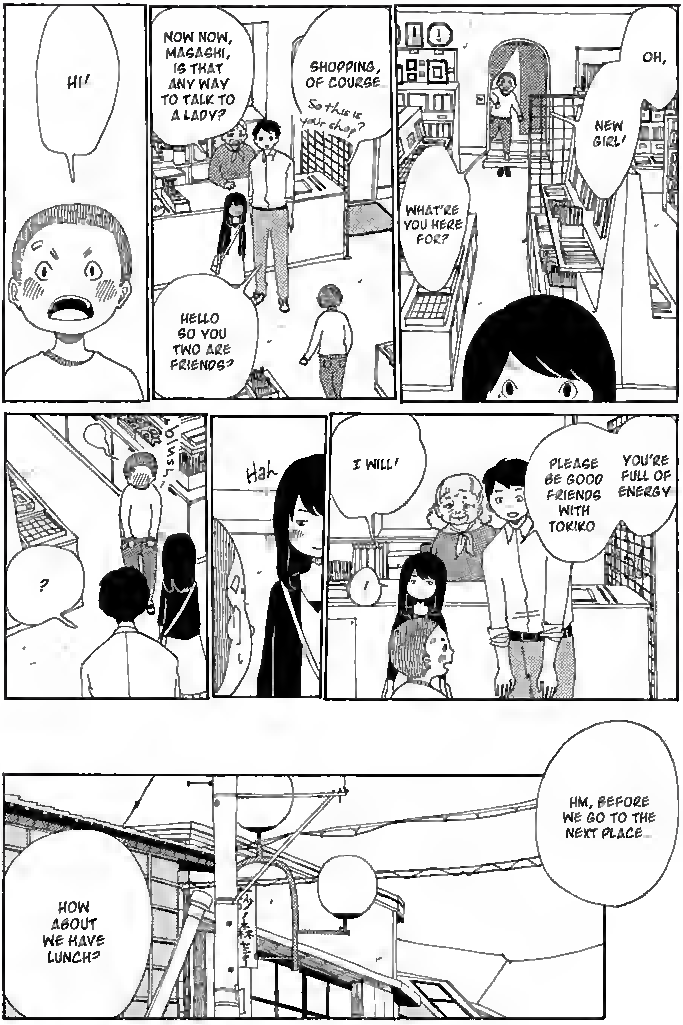
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'LL BE GOING SHOPPING
WITH JUST THE TWO OF US...
AH, THAT'S RIGHT...
...HUH?
YUP!
WE'LL BE BACK BEFORE DARK
SURE, TAKE YOUR TIME
YOU TWO TAKE CARE
YEAH
YOU'VE GOT YOUR SHOES ON?
WE'RE OFF!
YEAH
READY TO GO?


HOW'S SCHOOL?
HAVE YOU GOTTEN USED TO IT?
MOSTLY, I GUESS...
YOU AREN'T GETTING TEASED FOR MOVING DURING YOUR LAST YEAR OR ANYTHING?
EVERYONE'S NICE TO ME
HUH, THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR
.....
I'M FINE
I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT TO TALK ABOUT...
WITH MOM... WE'D CHAT ABOUT TV AND STUFF...
AND WE'D GO ON AND ON ABOUT STUPID LITTLE THINGS...

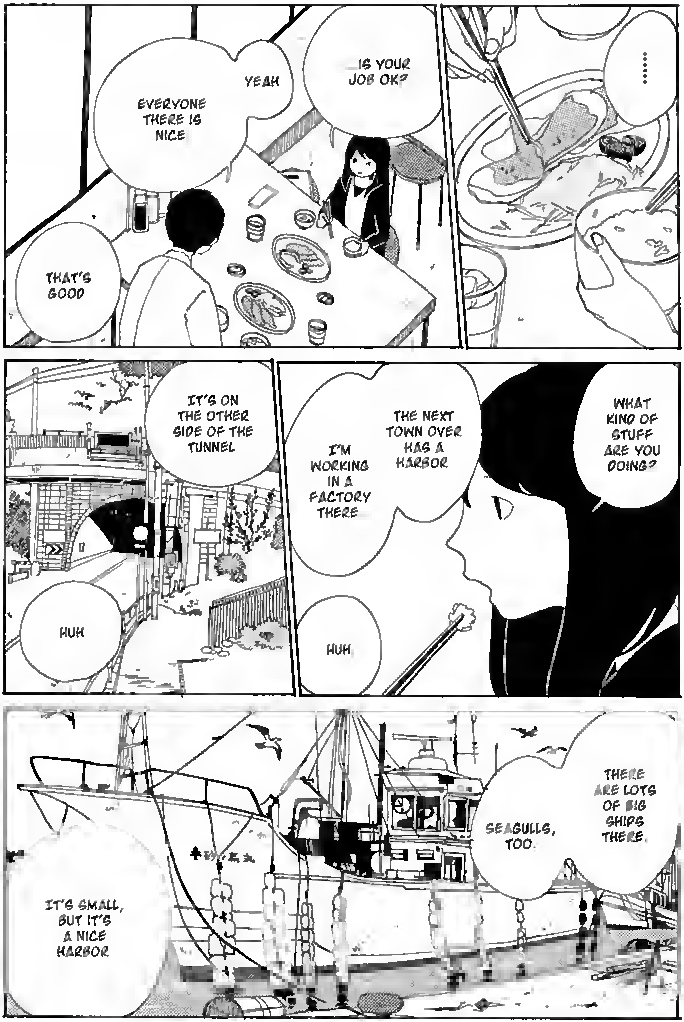

40
.....
RIGHT, MR AOYAMA...
THE SCHOOL CONTACTED US
YOU KNOW YOU HAVE TO KEEP UP WITH YOUR SCHOOL STUDIES, RIGHT?
OH, YEAH
OK, HERE ARE THE BOOKS THE SIXTH-GRADERS WILL BE USING
WE PUT THEM TOGETHER FOR YOU IN ADVANCE
THANK YOU

HUH?
OH..
CAN I REALLY?
SO FEEL FREE TO COME IN JUST TO BROWSE
WE'RE ALWAYS OPEN.
?
I DON'T KNOW ANY TODA...
MAKE FRIENDS WITH HIM
THERE'S A KID NAMED TODA THERE, RIGHT?
NEXT IS A NOTEBOOK AND STATIONERY
LIKE A COLLEGE NOTE-BOOK?
A NORMAL ONE..
WHICH DO YOU WANT?
YEAH

WELL, WE JUST MOVED HERE RECENTLY..
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU BEFORE
IS THAT SO?
FROM WHERE?
TOKYO
HUH... THAT'S FAR. IT MUST HAVE BEEN A HARD TRIP
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?
AH, YES. WE'LL TAKE THIS
OF COURSE, THANK YOU
HIGH-FASHION ...?
WE MIGHT NOT HAVE ALL THE HIGH-FASHION SCHOOL SUPPLIES YOU'LL FIND IN TOKYO,
BUT PLEASE DO COME AGAIN
OK
Sunanomori Marine Drawing Contest
Second Grade Itou

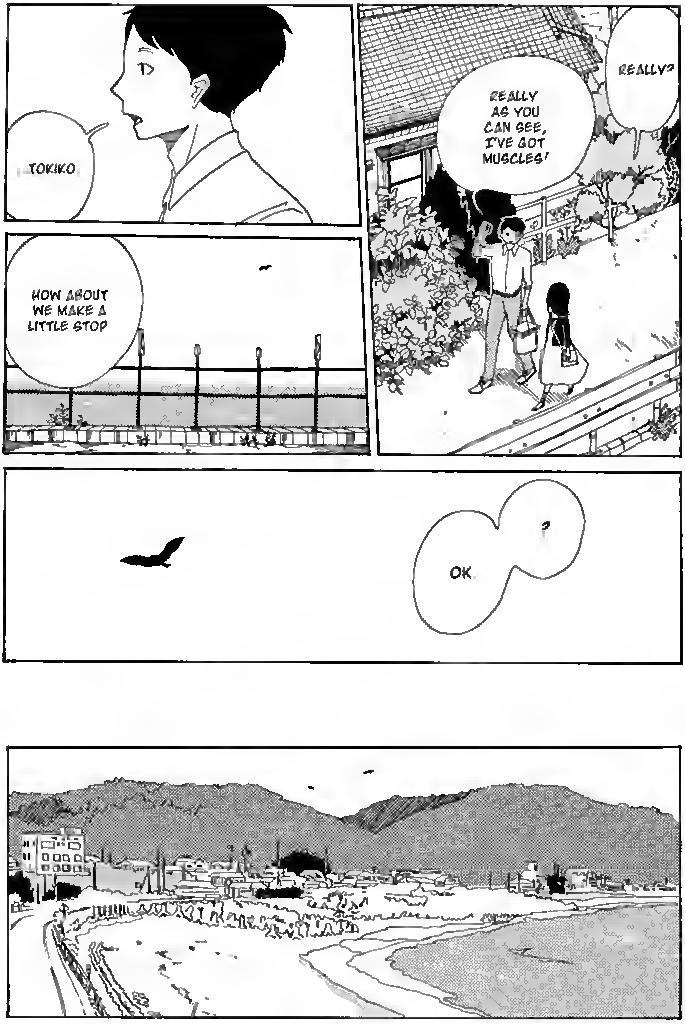

HI!
NOW NOW, MASAGHI, IS THAT ANY WAY TO TALK TO A LADY?
SHOPPING, OF COURSE
So this is your shop?
HELLO SO YOU TWO ARE FRIENDS?
OH,
NEW GIRL!
WHAT'RE YOU HERE FOR?
?
Hah
I WILL!
PLEASE BE GOOD FRIENDS WITH TOKIKO
YOU'RE FULL OF ENERGY
HM, BEFORE WE GO TO THE NEXT PLACE...
HOW ABOUT WE HAVE LUNCH?

CLANG!
CLANK
お食事処 Seaside Diner
お食事処 Sea side
rattle
ミルメクビール
THANKS FOR THE FOOD!
SORRY FOR THE WAIT!
OK, TWO GINGER PORKS!


IS YOUR JOB OK?
YEAH
EVERYONE THERE IS NICE
THAT'S GOOD
.....
WHAT KIND OF STUFF ARE YOU DOING?
THE NEXT TOWN OVER HAS A HARBOR
I'M WORKING IN A FACTORY THERE
HUH
IT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TUNNEL
HUH
THERE ARE LOTS OF BIG SHIPS THERE.
SEAGULLS, TOO.
IT'S SMALL, BUT IT'S A NICE HARBOR

I'M LIVING WITH MY DAD,
BUT I HARDLY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM
THERE ISN'T MUCH ELSE TO IT, BUT THE FREEZE OFF THE SEA FEELS GREAT
YEAH
WANT TO SEE IT SOMETIME?

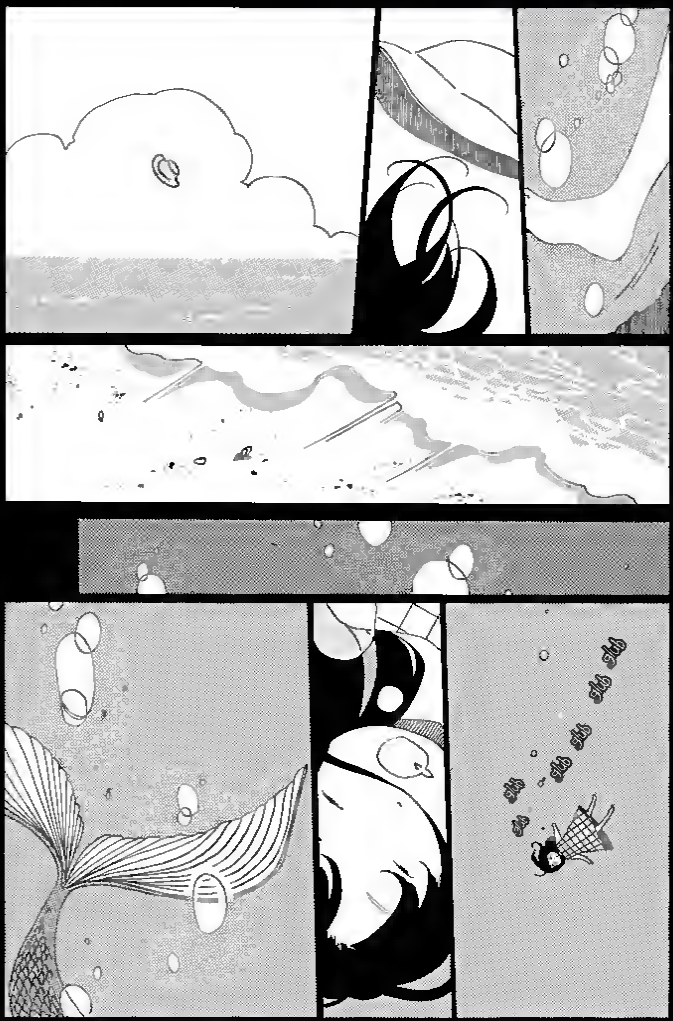
NO
IS THERE ANYWHERE YOU WANT TO STOP ALONG THE WAY?
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO HEAD HOME
YEAH
I'M GLAD WE GOT IT ALL DONE
OH
YEAH
YEAH, I FIGURED YOU'D BE A LITTLE TIRED
OH, YEAH
DAD, YOUR HAND'S ALL RED
I'M FINE
IT'S OK
THEY'RE MY THINGS I CAN CARRY THEM FOR A LITTLE WHILE

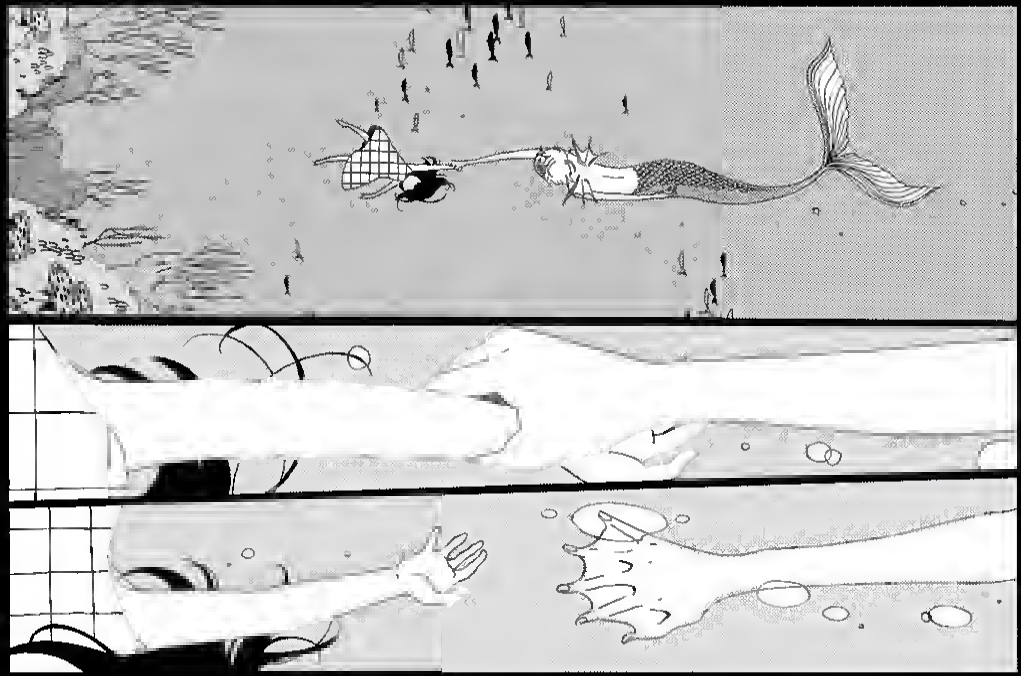

TOKIKO
HOW ABOUT WE MAKE A LITTLE STOP
REALLY AS YOU CAN SEE, I'VE GOT MUSCLES!
REALLY?
OK.
?

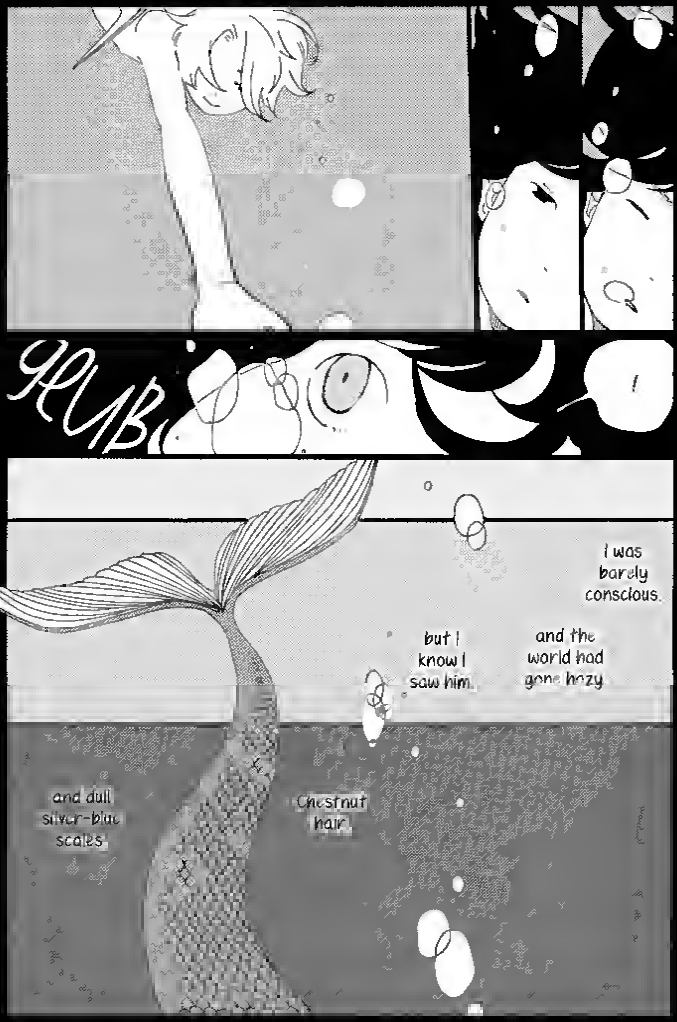
DO YOU REMEMBER, TOKIKO?
.....
WOW... THERE'S REALLY A LOT OF FREEZE RIGHT OFF THE SEA.
YEAH, I KIND OF DO.
BACK WHEN YOU WERE FOUR, YOU CAME HERE WITH YOUR MOM.
THERE'S NO ONE HERE, HUH.
The blue sky felt so close.
...I remember that it was a sunny day.
.....

It was just the two of us on the beach.
and it was strange how quiet it was
AND IT'S SUMMER, TOO!
OK!
AND DON'T GO FAR!
JUST MAKE SURE TO KEEP YOUR HAT ON.
YOU WANT TO MAKE A CASTLE?
YEAH.
MOM, A CASTLE...

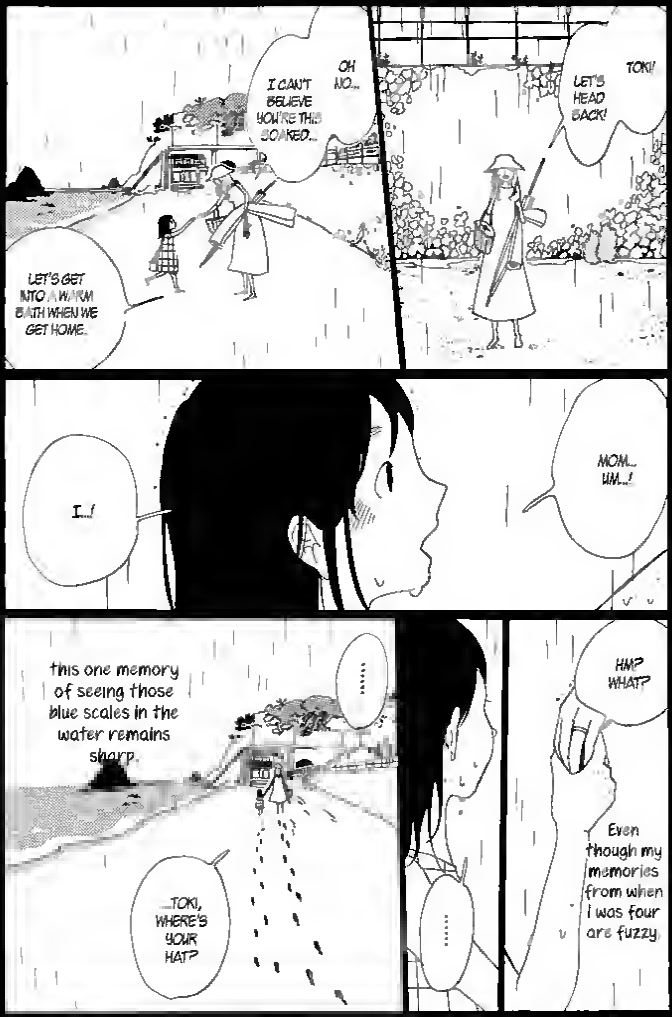
……
!
ush ds
?
splash
splash


glub glub glub glub glub glub

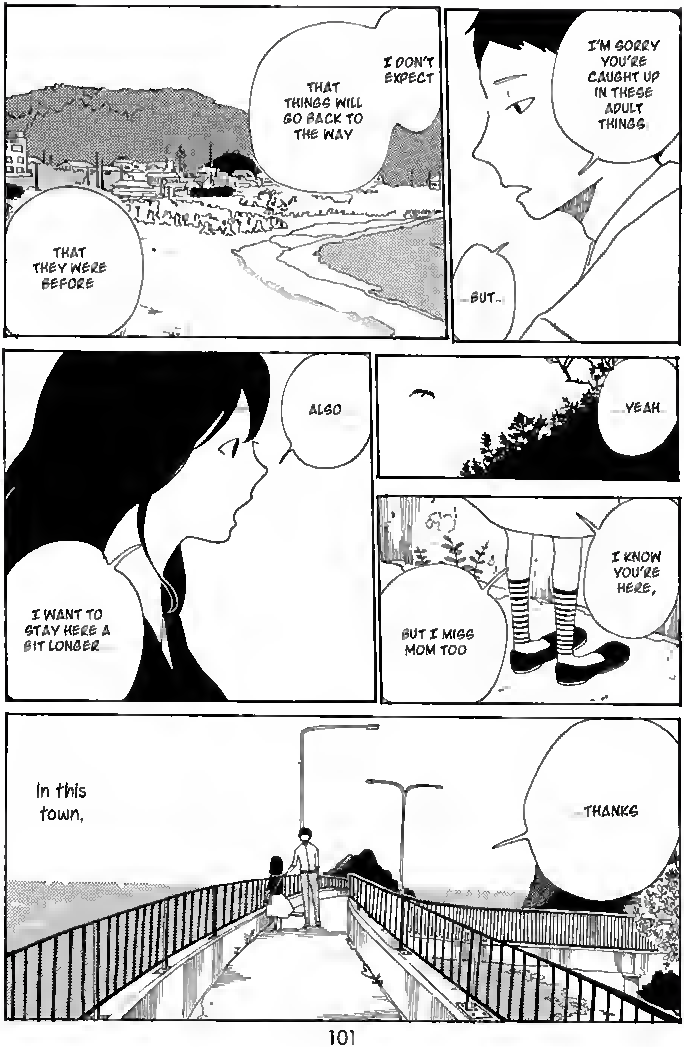


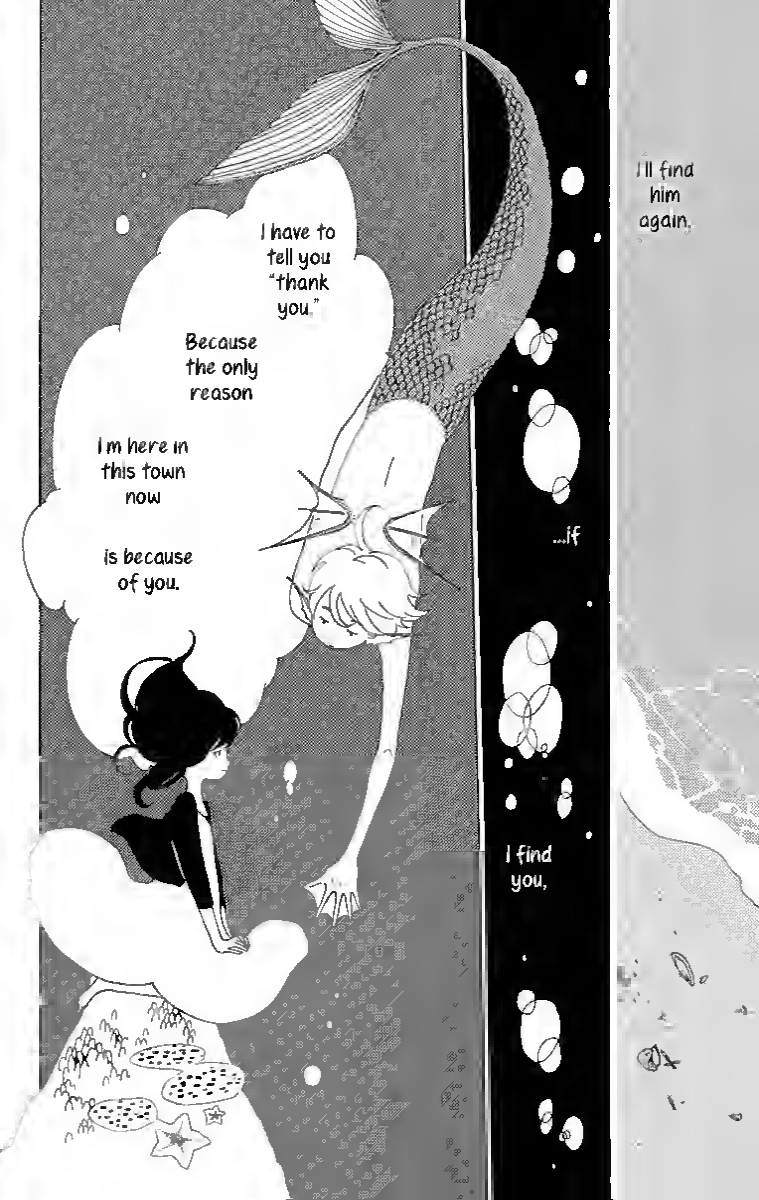

I was barely conscious.
but I know I saw him.
and the world had gone hazy
and dull silver-blue scales
Chestnut hair

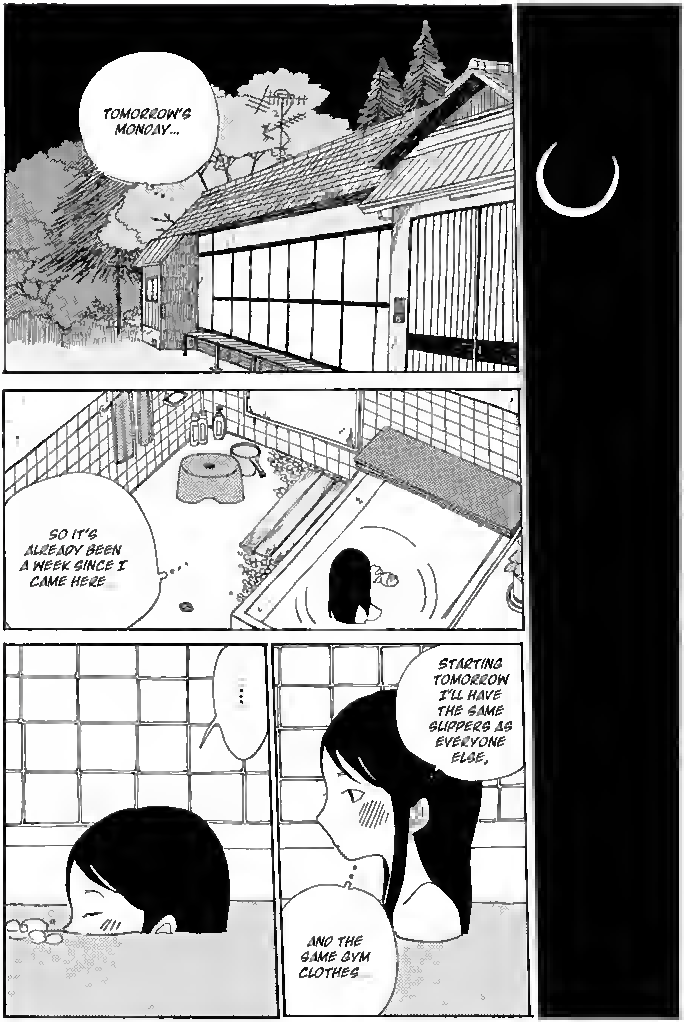
+ FFUMBRE
Cough!
drip
When I think of it now...
OH NO!
RAIN!?
.....

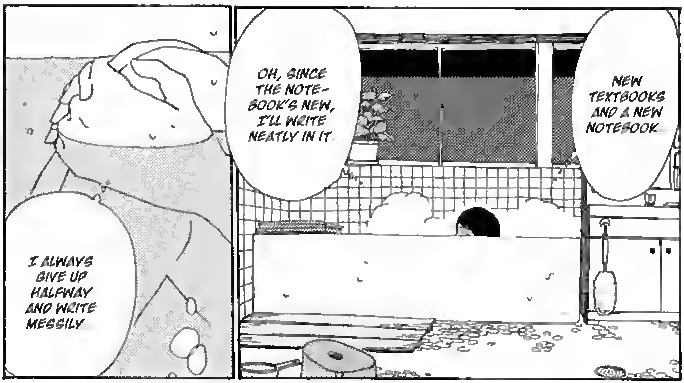

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE THIS SOAKED...
OH NO...
LET'S GET INTO A WARM BATH WHEN WE GET HOME.
TOKI!
LET'S HEAD BACK!
I...!
MOM... UM...!
this one memory of seeing those blue scales in the water remains sharp.
.....
...TOKI, WHERE'S YOUR HAT?
.....
HM? WHAT?
Even though my memories from when I was four are fuzzy,

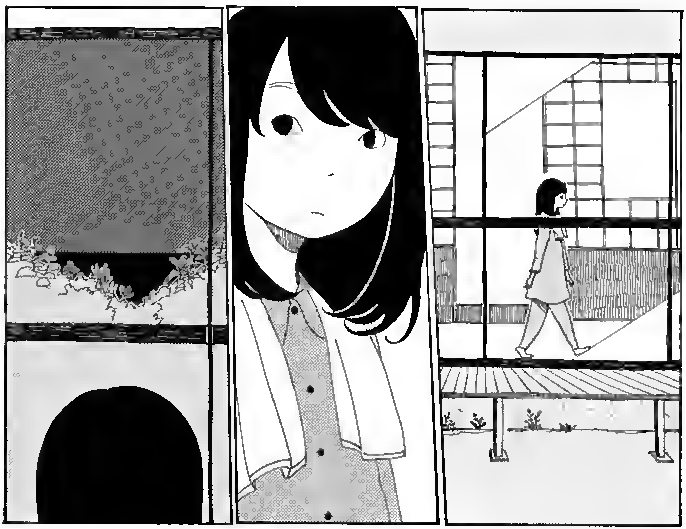
TOKIKO
IF WE STAYED IN THIS TOWN, AWAY FROM YOUR MOTHER?
WOULD YOU MIND


I DON'T EXPECT THAT THINGS WILL GO BACK TO THE WAY THAT THEY WERE BEFORE
I'M SORRY YOU'RE CAUGHT UP IN THESE ADULT THINGS
BUT...
ALSO
I WANT TO STAY HERE A BIT LONGER
YEAH
I KNOW YOU'RE HERE,
BUT I MISS MOM TOO
In this town,
THANKS


I have to tell you "thank you."
Because the only reason
I'm here in this town now
is because of you.
...if
I find you,
I'll find him again.


TOMORROW'S MONDAY...
SO IT'S ALREADY BEEN A WEEK SINCE I CAME HERE...
...
STARTING TOMORROW I'LL HAVE THE SAME SLIPPERS AS EVERYONE ELSE,
AND THE SAME GYM CLOTHES...


I ALWAYS GIVE UP HALFWAY AND WRITE MESSILY
OH, SINCE THE NOTE-BOOK'S NEW, I'LL WRITE NEATLY IN IT
NEW TEXTBOOKS AND A NEW NOTEBOOK



I WONDER
WHAT MERMAIDS DO AT NIGHT
MAYBE THEY SWIM IN THE DARK SEA,
OR MAYBE THEY SLEEP ON SOME CRAG THAT NO ONE KNOWS ABOUT
I wonder if they're lonely...
If that's the case,
TOKIKO!
WHAT?
SORRY, BUT COULD YOU CHECK THE MAIL FOR ME?
SURE

PAPER, PAPER..
THANKS
I'LL LOOK FOR IT
I CAN'T FIND THE EVENING PAPER ANYWHERE..
SUMIYOSHI CIRCULAR
SUMIYOSHI CIRCULAR

!
OOPS...
Annual Outline
Essentials

Lovely Strange Dark

lovelystrangedark.wordpress.com

AOI UROKO TO SUNA NO MACHI

"THE TOWN OF BLUE SCALES AND SAND"

BY KOMORI YOUKO

CHAPTER 4

Raws: kuinni

Translated: Kalenael

Edited: Ximena

QC: Ianu

[Four]
Deep Secret

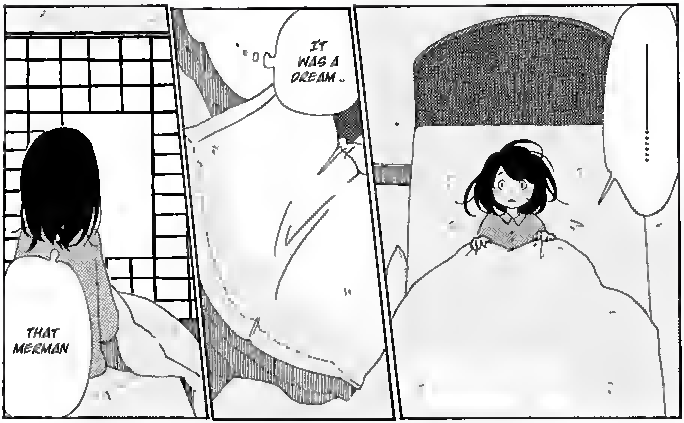
TOKIKO!
!
THAT'S A FISH TAIL..?
REI?
I can't read the last kanji.
IS THAT READ AS UMI.. TSU..
海つ霊
Annual Outline
Festival
Rentals

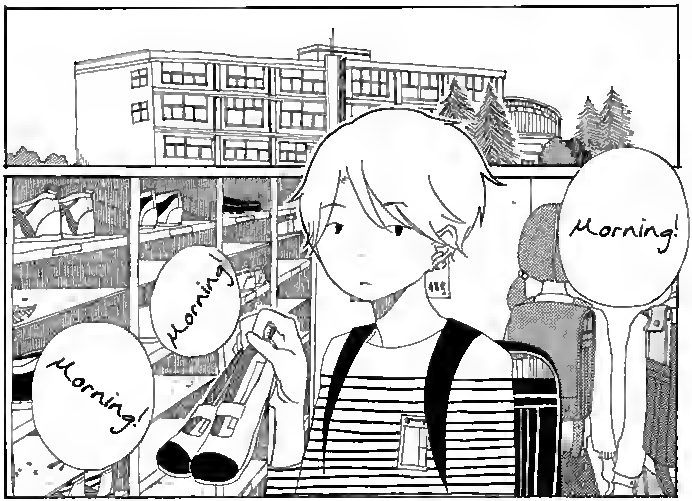
OH, THE PAPER WASN'T THERE...
NOW THAT I THINK OF IT, YOUR GRANDMOTHER TOOK IT TO THE SHOP.
HUH?
TOKIKO? WHAT'S WRONG?
What about the paper?
OH... WELL, THERE WAS THIS CIRCULAR IN THERE...
OH, THANKS.
ALL THE WALKING TODAY MUST HAVE TIRED YOU OUT, SO HEAD ON OFF TO BED.
...
TOKIKO, YOU HAVE TO GET UP EARLY AGAIN FOR SCHOOL TOMORROW, RIGHT?
DAD...
.....
OK

feels a lot like floating between the waves.
The feeling I get right before I fall asleep
AH... MY PILLOW GOT SWEPT AWAY...
AH——
Splat

he he
he he
he he
he he
he he
he he
YOUR PILLOW GOT WASHED AWAY, HUH
WHO CARES ABOUT THAT!?
SHOW ME YOUR FACE!
WHAT WILL YOU DO?
WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW, HUH?

I KNOW YOU!
YOU'RE THE MERMAN, RIGHT?
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU
MY FACE... HMM...
HOW ABOUT THIS?
...
...OH
HE HE
HE HE
HE HE
HE HE
NARU...
HE HE

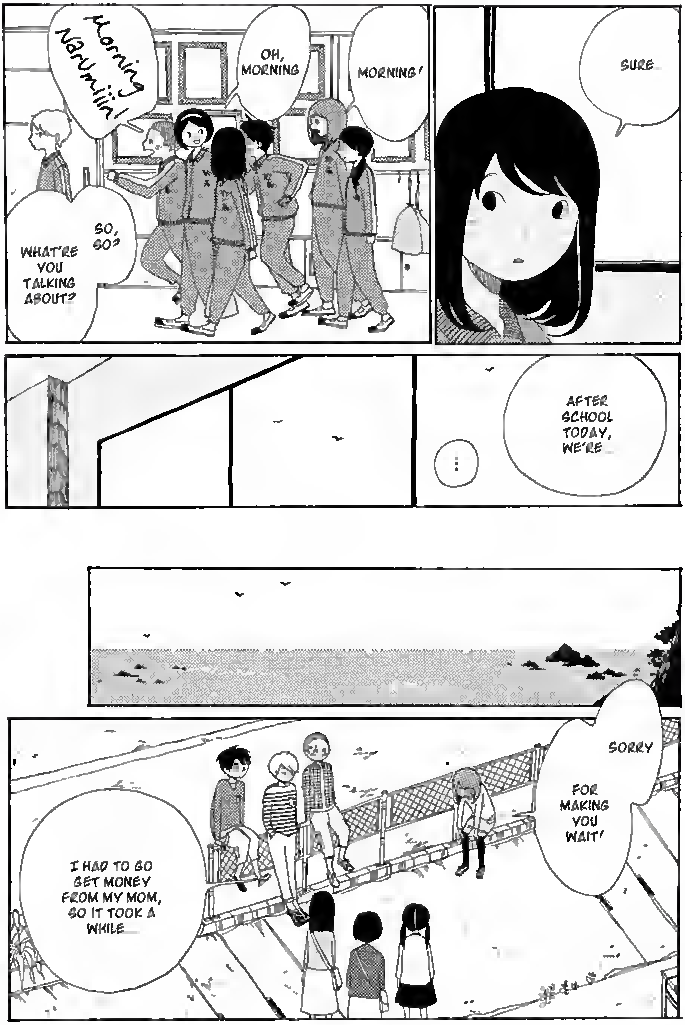

IT WAS A DREAM..
THAT MERMAN


Morning!
Morning!
Morning!

MORNING
MORNING
OH...
.....
WHAT?
?
HUH?
NO NOTHING
THE BELL WILL RING IF YOU TWO DON'T GET TO CLASS SOON
OH! MORNING MIKUMO
MORNING
HUH?
IT'S ALREADY THAT LATE?
MORNING NARUMI
HEY
MAYBE BECAUSE WE WERE TALKING ABOUT THE SEA BEFORE...?
...I WONDER WHY IT WAS NARUMI

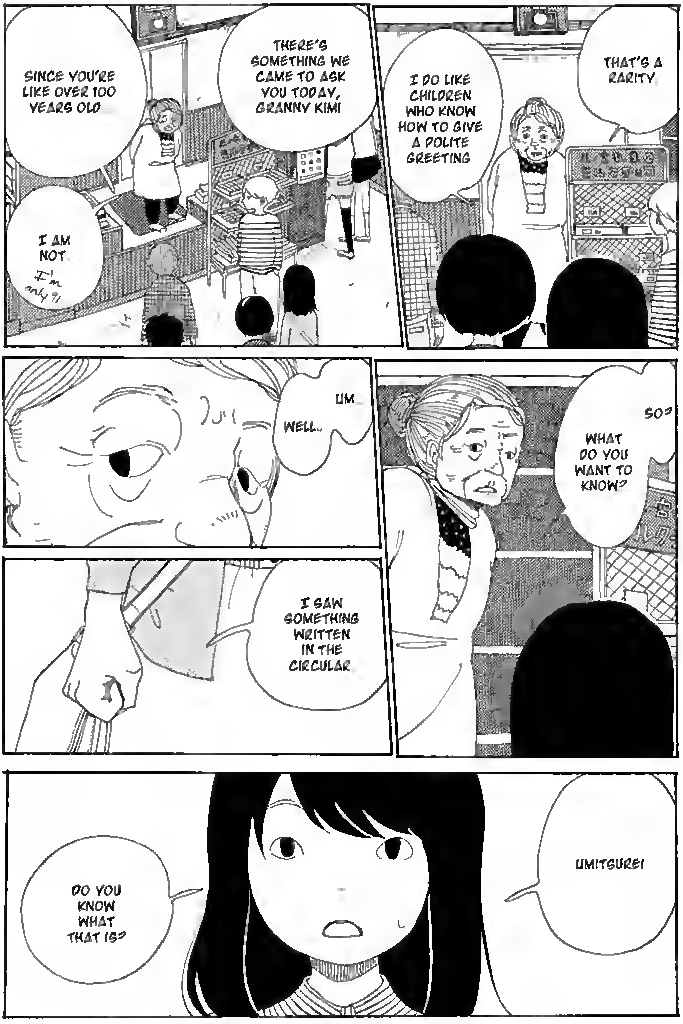
WE START WITH AN HOUR OF PE TODAY, SO ONCE YOU'RE DONE CHANGING,
HEAD STRAIGHT TO THE YARD
—— OK, THAT'S THE LAST OF THE MORNING TASKS
Grade 6
THANKS
OH, TOKI...
YOU GOT YOUR GYM CLOTHES...
NOPE
WHY?
NO...
WELL...
HEY, MIKUMO,
DID YOU SEE THE CIRCU-LAR?
CIRCULAR?
AND YOUR SLIPPERS TOO!
NOW I MATCH EVERYONE ELSE
I WENT WITH MY DAD AND GOT THEM YESTERDAY

DO YOU KNOW WHAT "UMITSU-REI" IS?
UMITSU ?
HUH? SAY IT AGAIN
I THINK IT'S "UMITSU-REI."
NO I DON'T
OH
OH, HEY! NAZUMIN!
?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT "UMITSU-REI" IS?
HUH? WHAT?
UMITSU-REI
TOKI SAID SHE SAW THAT WRIT-TEN IN THE CIRCULAR.
NO IDEA
YOU'RE SAYING WEIRD STUFF AGAIN
IT'S NOT WEIRD!
JUST SOME-THING I SAW.
IF IT'S IN THE CIRCULAR, IT HAS TO DO WITH THE TOWN, RIGHT?
HOW ABOUT WE ASK GRANNY KIMI?
GRANNY KIMI?
THE OLD LADY AT THE SWEETS SHOP
SHE KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS TOWN AND THE SEA
WANT TO GO TODAY?


Morning, Narumiii!
OH, MORNING
MORNING!
SO, SO?
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
SURE...
AFTER SCHOOL TODAY, WE'RE...
...
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT!
I HAD TO GO GET MONEY FROM MY MOM, SO IT TOOK A WHILE...

WHY'RE YOU GUYS HERE!?
NARUMIN SAID HE WAS DYING TO COME..
OH
PHEW
EVERYONE JUST GOT HERE.
AS FOR ME, I WANNA BUY SOME APRICOT JAM!
AH WELL
LET'S GO?
I JUST SAID I'D GO WITH YOU!
I DID NOT!
NOT AS OLD AS THIS, THOUGH.. AND I'VE NEVER BEEN TO ONE
YEAH
DO THEY HAVE SWEETS SHOPS IN TOKYO?

YOU'VE SAID THAT A HUNDRED TIMES!
YOU'D COME HERE STRAIGHT FROM SCHOOL.
I WAS JUST BESIDE MYSELF WHEN I HEARD
OH, AND WHO MIGHT YOU BE? I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU BEFORE
YOU GUYS ARE BACK?
YOU WENT HOME BEFORE COMING HERE THIS TIME, I HOPE?
YUP!
H—HELLO!
NICE TO MEET YOU...
THIS IS AOYAMA TOKIKO.
SHE MOVED HERE LAST WEEK FROM TOKYO

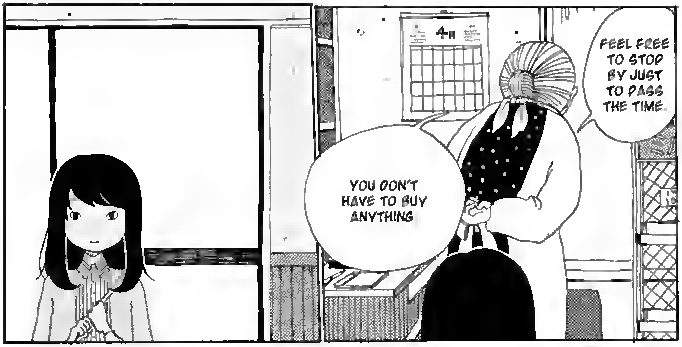

SINCE YOU'RE LIKE OVER 100 YEARS OLD
THERE'S SOMETHING WE CAME TO ASK YOU TODAY, GRANNY KIMI
I AM NOT I'm only 9
I DO LIKE CHILDREN WHO KNOW HOW TO GIVE A POLITE GREETING
THAT'S A RARITY
UM... WELL...
SO?
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?
I SAW SOMETHING WRITTEN IN THE CIRCULAR
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT IS?
UMITSURE!

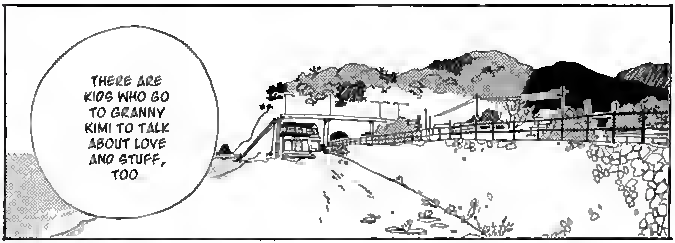
DO YOU MEAN LORD WADATSUMI?
LORD WADA-TSUMI?
THE CIRCU-LAR..
..OH
IS
UMITSU-REI THE KANJI FOR UMI..
OH
IT'S WRITTEN LIKE THIS, RIGHT?
THAT'S IT!
AND ABOVE IT WAS A LOGO THAT LOOKED LIKE A FISH TAIL...
YES..
YES!
Annual Outline
Portfolio

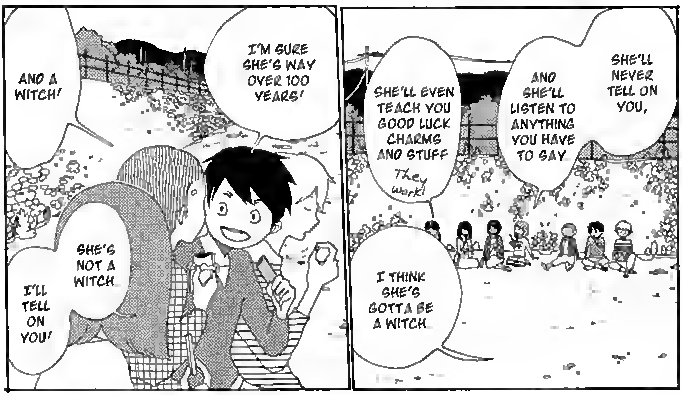
WHO'S LORD WADATSUMI?
LORD WADATSUMI IS THE SEA GOD
OH, SO IT WAS ABOUT WADATSUMI!
THEN I'M SURE YOU SAW A NOTICE ABOUT THE WADATSUMI FESTIVAL
YOU KNOW IT?
EVERYONE IN TOWN KNOWS IT
SEA GOD
THOSE OF US HERE ON THE SHORE LIVE ON THE LORD WADATSUMI'S BACK
AND HARVEST FISH
AND ALLOWING US TO LIVE IN THIS TOWN ON THE SHORE
TO THANK LORD WADATSUMI FOR KEEPING THE SEAS CALM
IT'S A FESTIVAL
I DON'T THINK ANYONE'S THOUGHT ABOUT IT...
BUT I'VE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT.. MAYBE IN THE SEA?
UM... I DON'T KNOW
WHERE DOES LORD WADATSUMI LIVE?
.....

!
MERMAIDS ?
THAT'S WHY WE HAVE MERMAIDS.
HE'S IN THE SEA...
LORD WADA-TSUMI'S ...
ARE HIS MESSENGERS TO THIS TOWN, YOU SEE.
THE MERMAIDS
MESSEN-GERS...
THEY'RE SPECIAL BEINGS WHO CONNECT US HUMANS TO THE GOD.

GRANNY KIMI, I'LL TAKE THIS!
THAT'S 80 YEN.
THANK YOU
AND I'LL TAKE THIS!
TOKI, ARE YOU BUYING SOME SWEETS TOO?
AH, YEAH
PICK THEM OUT QUICK AND LET'S GO TO THE BEACH!
MAKE IT FAST!
THEN I'LL TAKE THIS AND THIS ..
90 YEN
UM
THANK YOU FOR EX-PLAINING ALL THAT ..!
?
SPLIT THIS WITH EVERYONE
Sugar Candy


FEEL FREE TO STOP BY JUST TO PASS THE TIME.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BUY ANYTHING.

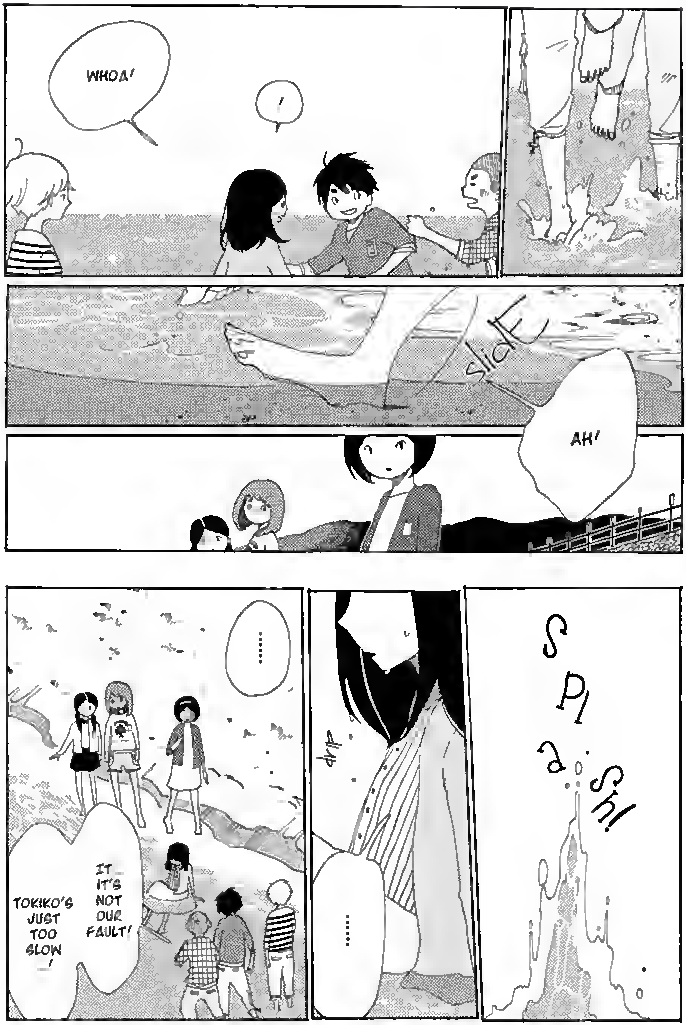

THERE ARE KIDS WHO GO TO GRANNY KIMI TO TALK ABOUT LOVE AND STUFF, TOO.


I'M SURE SHE'S WAY OVER 100 YEARS!
AND A WITCH!
SHE'S NOT A WITCH.
I'LL TELL ON YOU!
SHE'LL NEVER TELL ON YOU,
AND SHE'LL LISTEN TO ANYTHING YOU HAVE TO SAY
SHE'LL EVEN TEACH YOU GOOD LUCK CHARMS AND STUFF
They work!
I THINK SHE'S GOTTA BE A WITCH.

PAPER LANTERNS GET HUNG, AND THERE ARE ROWS OF CARTS
IT'S REALLY LOUD AND FUN!
HUH
AND ME, I HAVE A CANDY APPLE EVERY YEAR!
SO THIS'LL BE YOUR FIRST WAKATSUMI FESTIVAL, TOKI.
YEAH, THANKS
AND SHE CLEARED UP TOKI'S PUZZLE!
YAY!
WOW!
SHE TOLD ME TO SPLIT IT
I FORGOT, SHE GAVE ME SOME CANDY!
OH!
YOU HAVEN'T GONE IN THE SEA SINCE YOU GOT HERE, TOKI?
NO.
Huh
BUT IT'S SPITTING DISTANCE!!
!?
IT FEELS GREAT.
NOT TO SWIM, JUST OUR FEET.
IT'S STILL TOO COLD
HUH!? SWIMMING!?
AFTER WE FINISH THESE.
HEY, LET'S GO INTO THE WATER.

GIRLS ARE SLOOOOW!
ALMOST!
NOT YET!
EVERYONE DONE EATING?
IT'S WEIRD!
A WEIRDO THING TO SAY?
ISN'T SPITTING DISTANCE
Ha hə hə
ISN'T WEIRDO A WEIRDO THING TO SAY?
BOYS ARE ONLY CLEVER WHEN IT COMES TO FOOLING AROUND
OH, THAT'S SMART
SHUT UP
THEN PUT YOUR SHOES ON WITHOUT SOCKS TO GO HOME
WIPE THEM WITH YOUR SOCKS,
WE DRY THEM FIRST, OF COURSE!
WHAT ABOUT GOING HOME? DON'T YOUR FEET GET ALL WET?
TAKE OFF YOUR SHOES AND SOCKS...
!
GRANDMA MIGHT HAVE A HARD TIME WITH THE LAUNDRY
IF I GO HOME DIRTY, THEY MIGHT GET MAD..

WHOA...!
Splsh...
BUT IT'S LIKE I'M GOING TOWARD THE SEA!
I HAVEN'T MOVED AT ALL..
I'M BEING LED INTO THE SEA...
LIKE...
AND KIND OF.. A LITTLE SCARY...
IT'S WEIRD, RIGHT?

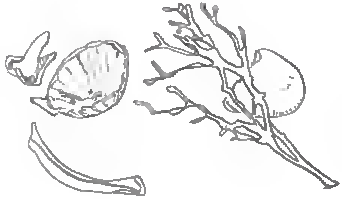

WHOA!
!
slide
AH!
Spl a sh!
.....
TOKIKO'S JUST TOO SLOW!
IT, IT'S NOT OUR FAULT!

THAT WOKE ME UP——…
Ahaha
ALRIGHT!
……
WHOA, AND SALTY…!
AHAHAHA, IT'S COLD!
TOKI, YOU OK?
YEAH

Wa
ha
ha
ha
Aha
ha
ha
ha
THE SEA'S SO BIG
LIKE DINOSAURS, GHOST SHIPS,
LORD WADATSUMI, AND MER-MAIDS
COULD ALL BE IN THERE SOMEWHERE
WHAT TIME IS IT NOW?
OH NO! IF IT GETS LATE, MY MOM WILL YELL AT ME!
LET'S GO HOME! LET'S GO!

I DIDN'T
REALLY DO ANYTHING
PUT THE SAD THINGS IN A BOX
OH
THANKS FOR BEFORE
HUH?
YOU REALLY HAD A GOOD LAUGH.
.....
TOKI, UM...
LOOKS LIKE YOU AND NARUMI ARE REALLY CLOSE!
NO... NOT REALLY
OH, TOKI!

I'VE
SEEN A MERMAID BEFORE
IT'S A SECRET



Lovely StrangeDark

lovelystrangedark.wordpress.com

AOI UROKO TO SUNA NO MACHI

"THE TOWN OF BLUE SCALES AND SAND"

BY KOMORI YOUKO

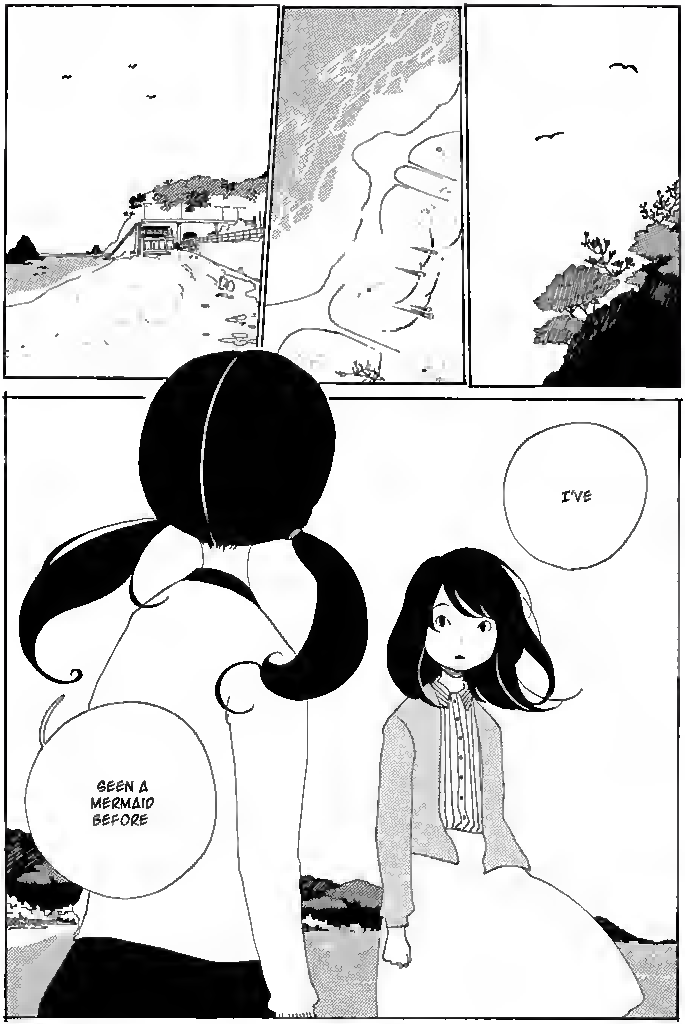
CHAPTER 5

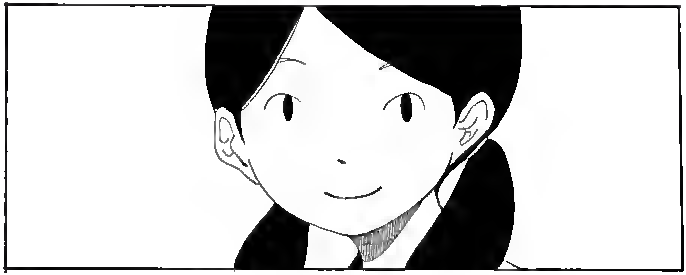
Raws: kuinni

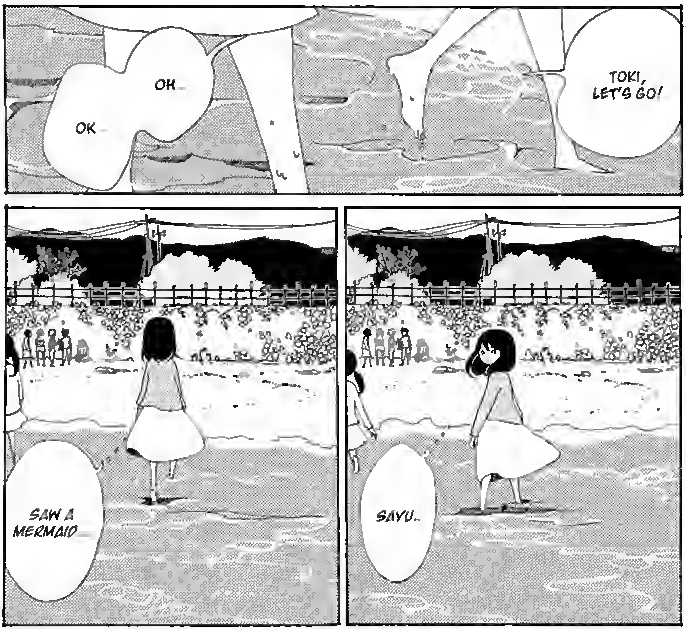
Translated: Kalenael

Edited: Ximena

QC: Ianu


I'VE
SEEN A MERMAID BEFORE

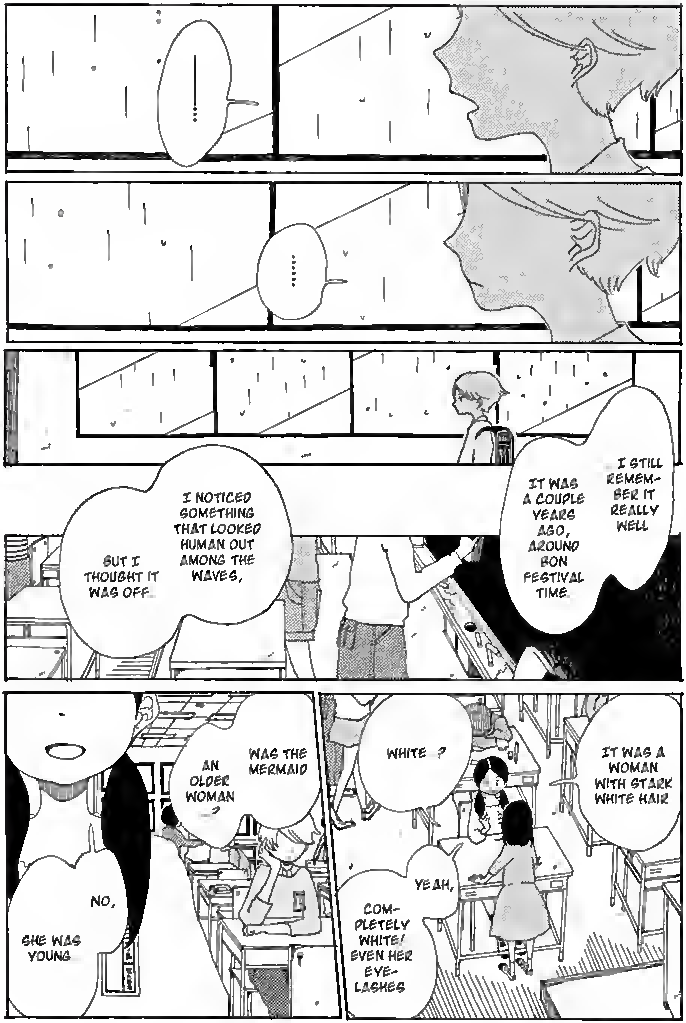


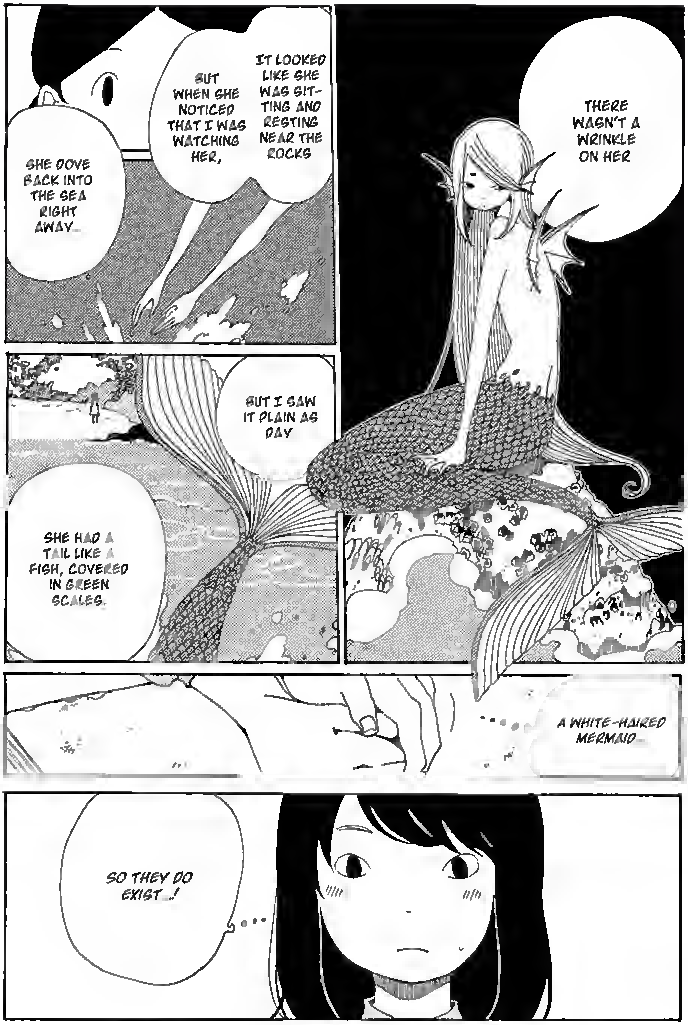

TOKI, LET'S GO!
OH...
OK...
SAW A MERMAID...
SAYU..

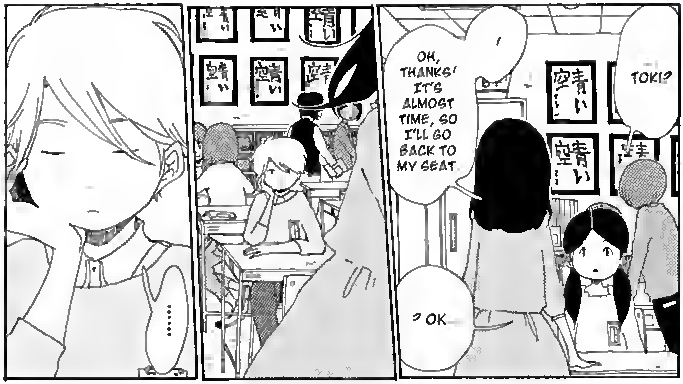
[Five]
Sounds of the Sea

Good morning
The country is under a storm warning this morning
Those living in the mountains need to be vigilant for landslides

YESTERDAY WAS FUN
MORNING, TOKI
!
YEAH
HEY, SAYU...
...
HM?
LATER... I WANT TO ASK YOU ABOUT THE MERMAID YOU MENTIONED YESTERDAY..
DOES YOUR HAIR GET ALL POOFY?
YEAH, MAYBE I SHOULD TIE MINE BACK TOO...
THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S RAINING
IT'S REALLY HUMID TODAY
OH, SURE
DURING RECESS, THEN!

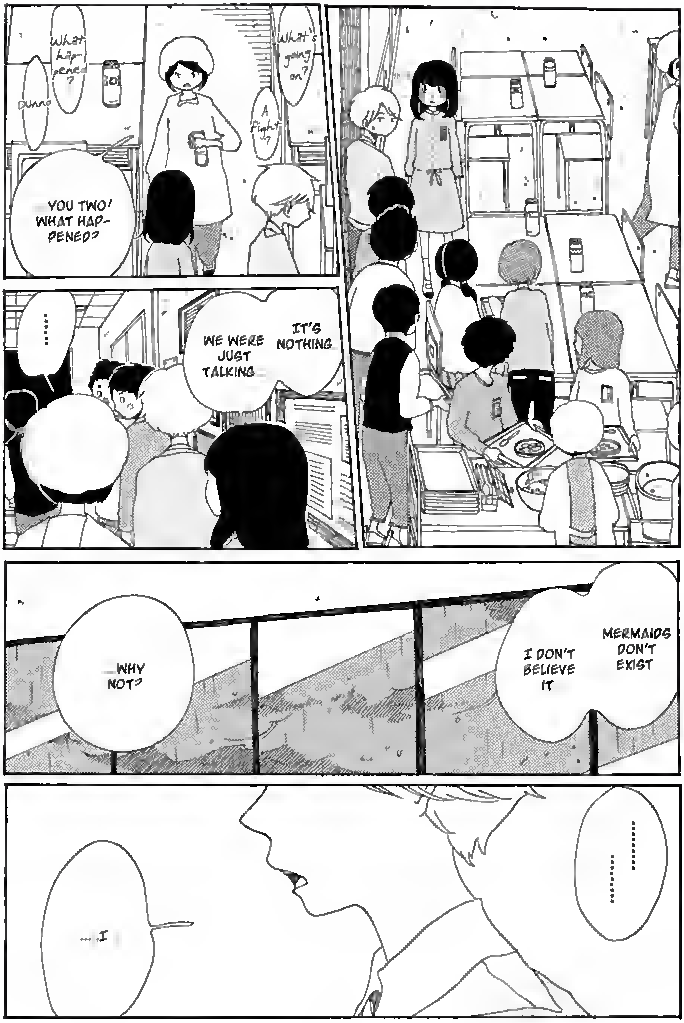

!!!
.....
I STILL REMEMBER IT REALLY WELL
IT WAS A COUPLE YEARS AGO, AROUND BON FESTIVAL TIME.
I NOTICED SOMETHING THAT LOOKED HUMAN OUT AMONG THE WAVES,
BUT I THOUGHT IT WAS OFF.
WAS THE MERMAID AN OLDER WOMAN?
NO, SHE WAS YOUNG.
WHITE?
IT WAS A WOMAN WITH STARK WHITE HAIR
YEAH, COMPLETELY WHITE! EVEN HER EYELASHES


THERE WASN'T A WRINKLE ON HER
IT LOOKED LIKE SHE WAS SITTING AND RESTING NEAR THE ROCKS
BUT WHEN SHE NOTICED THAT I WAS WATCHING HER,
SHE DOVE BACK INTO THE SEA RIGHT AWAY...
BUT I SAW IT PLAIN AS DAY
SHE HAD A TAIL LIKE A FISH, COVERED IN GREEN SCALES.
A WHITE-HAIRED MERMAID...
SO THEY DO EXIST...!


.....
OH, THANKS! IT'S ALMOST TIME, SO I'LL GO BACK TO MY SEAT.
TOKI?
? OK

OH
.....
U—UM!
YOU KNOW, SAYU SAID...
THAT SHE SAW A MERMAID!

HUH
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT...?
Again with the mermaids
THERE AREN'T ANY
NONE
THERE WAS ONE OUT IN THE SEA,
A WOMAN WITH WHITE HAIR
SHE WAS YOUNG AND HAD GREEN SCALES.
SHE MUST'VE BEEN SEEING THINGS
SHE WASN'T!
SHE REMEMBERS ALL THOSE DETAILS, YOU KNOW?
THEN HOW COULD SHE KNOW THAT THE MERMAID LOOKED YOUNG
WHEN SHE WAS SO FAR OUT AT SEA!?
.....
SORRY

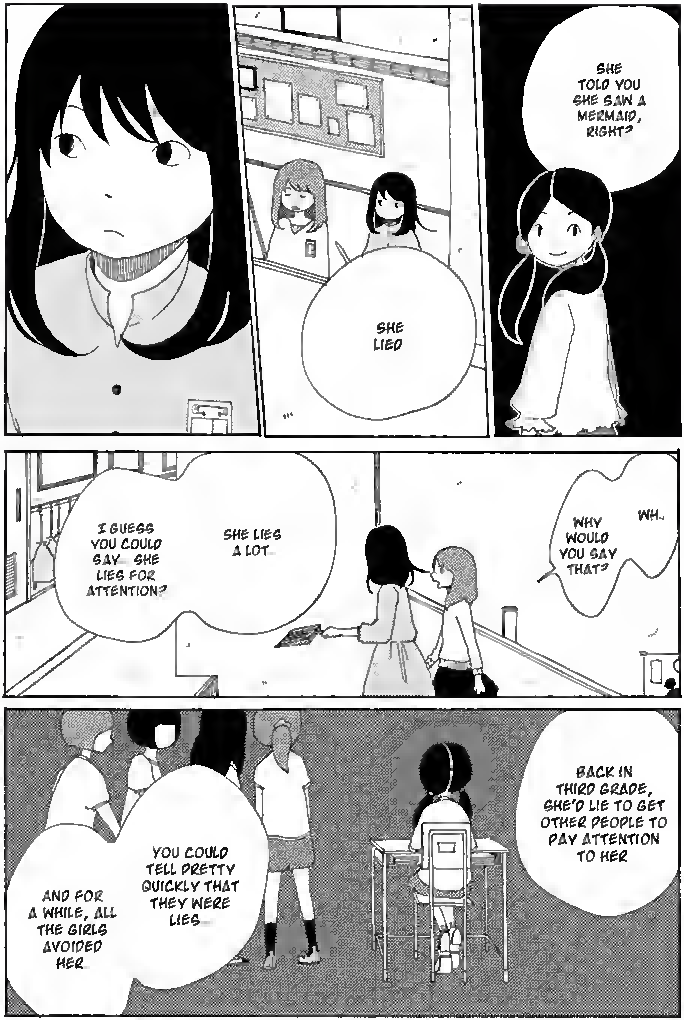

What happened?
Dunno
YOU TWO! WHAT HAPPENED?
What's going on?
A fight?
WE WERE JUST TALKING
IT'S NOTHING
.....
I DON'T BELIEVE IT
MERMAIDS DON'T EXIST
WHY NOT?
.....
.....
...I

ONLY BELIEVE IN THE THINGS I'VE SEEN WITH MY OWN EYES
SO MERMAIDS DON'T EXIST

...THEY DO.
THEY DO.

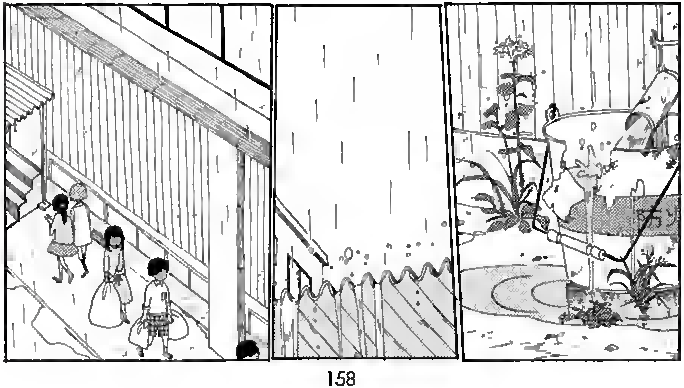
YOU'RE FREE TO BELIEVE IT OR NOT
I SAID IT BEFORE
DO WHAT-EVER YOU WANT

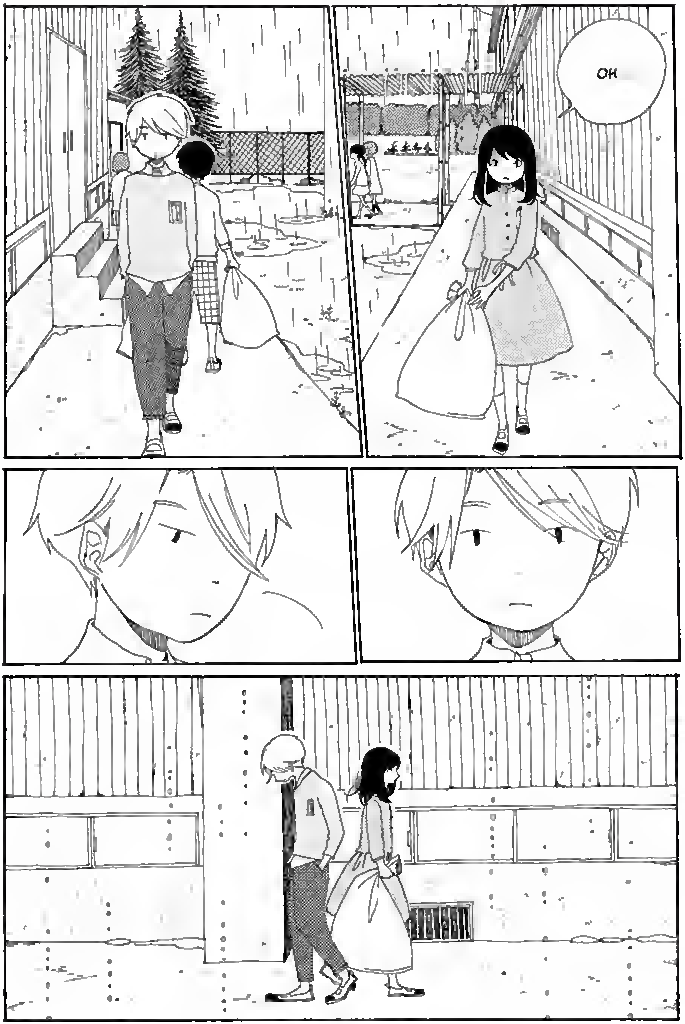
PHEW... I'M WORN OUT!
WANNA GO BACK TO CLASS?
YEAH.
ALRIGHT, DONE!
HEY, TOKI
HM?
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN WITH YOU AND NARUMI?
WELL, I MEAN, I OVERHEARD IT ALL...
SORRY..
IT'S OK, YOU WERE STANDING RIGHT THERE. YOU COULDN'T HELP IT.
AND WE WERE TALKING IN CLASS, TOO.
SAYU?
.....
RIGHT!
UM... HOW CAN I SAY THIS... IT'S NOT ABOUT NARUMI.
IT'S ABOUT SAYU.


SHE TOLD YOU SHE SAW A MERMAID, RIGHT?
SHE LIED
WH-
WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT?
SHE LIES A LOT...
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY SHE LIES FOR ATTENTION?
BACK IN THIRD GRADE, SHE'D LIE TO GET OTHER PEOPLE TO PAY ATTENTION TO HER
YOU COULD TELL PRETTY QUICKLY THAT THEY WERE LIES...
AND FOR A WHILE, ALL THE GIRLS AVOIDED HER

THAT'S RIGHT, SHE SAID HE AND I WERE "REALLY CLOSE"
But we really aren't
YOU'VE BEEN TALKING TO NARUMI A LOT SINCE YOU GOT HERE, SO SHE MUST HAVE GOTTEN UPSET
SHE SEEMS TO BE BETTER ABOUT IT NOWADAYS, BUT...
I GET IT..
OH... SO THAT'S WHY!
WHAT!? SHE LIKES HIM!?
I'M SURE SHE LIED BECAUSE SHE WANTED TO GET ATTENTION FROM ONE OF YOU
SAYU LIKES NARUMI.
MERMAIDS DON'T EXIST
I'VE SEEN A MERMAID BEFORE

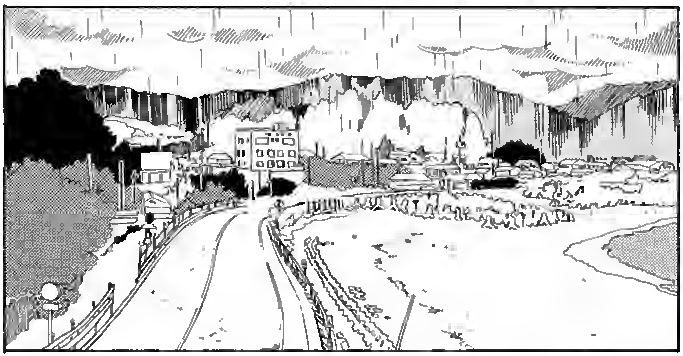
I DON'T KNOW!
AND COOL!?
AREN'T TOKYO BOYS ALL STYLISH
WHAT ABOUT WHEN YOU WERE IN TOKYO?
HUH—?
HUH!?
N—NO!
REALLY?
SO IS THERE ANYONE YOU LIKE, TOKI?




OH

THE RAIN'S PICKED UP
IT'S DIFFICULT TO SEE, SO BE EXTRA CAREFUL ON YOUR WAY HOME
OK, THE CLASS HELPER WILL TAKE OVER
STAND
THE SEA AND THE WAVES WILL HAVE SWELLED, SO STAY AS FAR FROM THERE AS POSSIBLE
GOODBYE, EVERYONE
Good bye

SEE YOU TOMORROW
SEE YOU!
TODAY I HAVE TO GO PICK UP MY BROTHER FROM KINDERGARTEN AND TAKE HIM HOME
SORRY!
MIKUMO, WANT TO HEAD OUT TOGETHER?
OH... DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, THEN
SO I GUESS I'M ALONE TODAY...
NOZOMI AND SAYU SAID THEY HAVE CLASS CHORES,



THE UM-BRELLA'S HEAVY...
AND MY SHOES ARE SOAKED
MAYBE I SHOULD TAKE COVER SOMEWHERE UNTIL THE RAIN LETS UP A LITTLE

TOKIKO?
OH?
OH,
YOU'RE THE OLD MAN FROM THE BEACH HOUSE
OH! THEN IF YOU WALK JUST A BIT MORE
YOU CAN TAKE SHELTER AT MY STOP
O-OLD MAN
YOU HEADED HOME?
YEAH
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
IT'S RAINING PRETTY HARD, SO I'M HIDING UNDER THE TREE FOR NOW
REALLY?

OF COURSE
WELL WITH THE RAIN TODAY, IT'S UNLIKELY I'LL GET ANY CUSTOMERS
I HAD TO PICK UP GROCERIES FOR THE STORE
...SO WHAT WERE YOU DOING OUT IN THIS RAIN, MISTER?

WANT SOMETHING TO DRINK?
HUH!?
NO... I'M FINE
.....
YOU'LL CATCH A COLD LIKE THAT
YOU DON'T NEED TO BE SO SHY
HERE, HAVE SOME STEAMED MILK
AND HERE'S A TOWEL FOR YOU.
THANKS

HUH?
WHY?
YOU JUST SEEM A LITTLE SAD
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN AT SCHOOL?
NARUMI YOUSUKE?
HE RARELY PICKS FIGHTS WITH ANYONE
ESPE-CIALLY GIRLS.
BUT IT'S GOTTEN KIND OF AWK-WARD...
I DION'T THINK WE WERE FIGHTING.
WELL, NARUMI AND I DON'T AGREE ON SOME-THING.
MY FRIENDS AND I..
WELL, AT LUNCH TODAY
WHAT WERE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I THOUGHT NARUMI WAS ALSO LOOKING FOR SOMETHING IN THE SEA
I SEE
I started to hope that he might also be searching for mermaids.
BEFORE, AT SCHOOL,
HE ASKED ME IF I'D SEEN SOMETHING
WHEN I SAID THAT I HADN'T, HE LOOKED SAD
WHAT YOUSUKE WAS LOOKING FOR IN THE SEA
...

IT HAPPENED IN THE SEA RIGHT HERE,
BACK WHEN YOUSUKE WAS STILL LITTLE
I ONLY MET HIS BROTHER ONCE, MYSELF
WAS HIS BIG BROTHER WHO PASSED AWAY

YOUSUKE REALLY LOVED HIS BROTHER.
BUT THE TWO OF THEM WERE EXTREMELY CLOSE
HE WAS QUITE A BIT OLDER,
THEY LOOKED FOR MONTHS, BUT THEY NEVER FOUND HIS BODY, AND THE OFFICIALS CALLED OFF THE SEARCH.
EVERYONE SAYS THAT HIS BODY WAS PROBABLY WASHED FAR AWAY,
EATEN BY FISH AND PLANKTON...
BUT YOUSUKE STILL LOOKS FOR HIM, EVEN TODAY

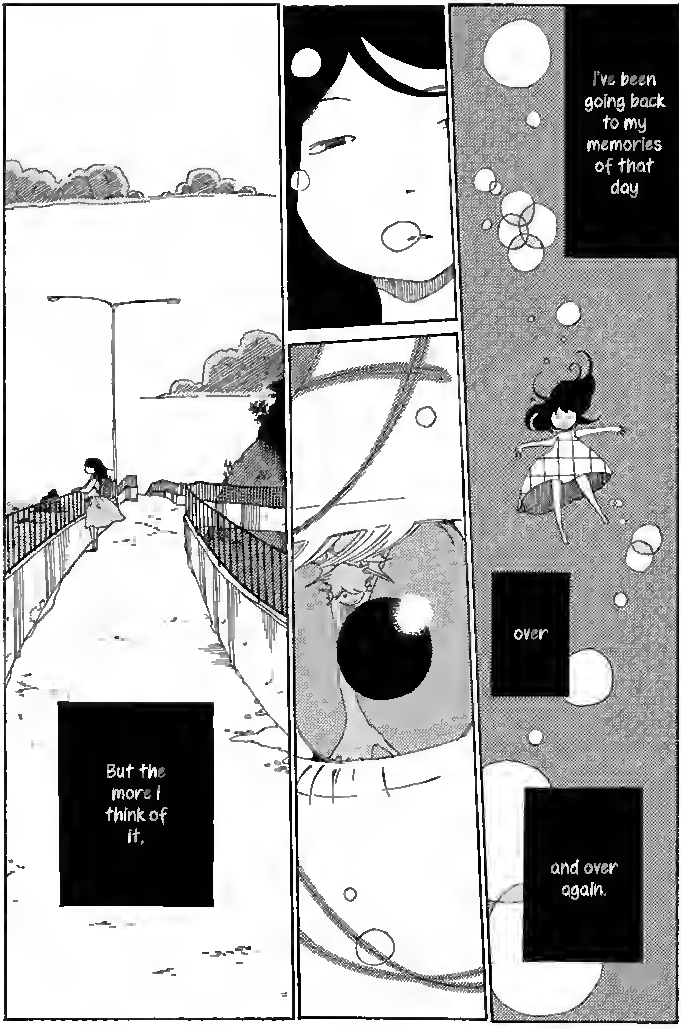
HE DOESN'T KNOW IF HE'S ALIVE OR DEAD,
IF HIS BODY IS OUT THERE OR NOT...

HE'S A SMART BOY, SO HE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT THERE'S NO CHANCE OF FINDING HIM ANYMORE.

SO HE'S GOTTEN STUBBORN AND SAYS HE WON'T ACCEPT IT UNTIL HE SEES IT WITH HIS OWN EYES
BUT HE MUST NOT WANT TO JUST ACCEPT WHAT PEOPLE TELL HIM,
AFTER ALL, YOU SO EASILY ACCEPTED A STORY ABOUT A MERMAID, CREATURE. THAT MIGHT NOT EVEN BE REAL.
THAT'S PROBABLY WHY HE SNAPPED AT YOU, TOKIKO.
IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S ALWAYS FIGHTING WITH ME.
BUT HE ALSO SAID THAT MERMAIDS DON'T EXIST...
NARUMI SAID I'M FREE TO BELIEVE IT OR NOT
I'M SURE HE FEELS BAD ABOUT IT NOW.

ABOUT YOUSUKE AND SAYU,
I'M SURE THAT'LL WORK ITSELF OUT IN TIME
THAT'S RIGHT
OH, THE RAIN STOPPED?
YOU'LL HEAD HOME?
YEAH
THANKS FOR THE DRINK AND THE TOWEL
OK
I WILL
TAKE CARE
DROP BY ANY TIME YOU WANT TO HANG OUT

Since I came to this town,
I've been imagining that somewhere in this vast, vast sea,
there's a merman swimming around.


But the more I think of it,
I've been going back to my memories of that day
over
and over again.

like when you have your eyes open underwater.
the fuzzier it gets.
WE WERE WATCHING THE SEA AND TALKING...
I'M SURE MOM AND I WERE HOLDING HANDS...
The feeling of her taking my arm that day,
her voice, slender fingers, and pretty hair...
BUT IT'S NOT ENOUGH...
I CAN REMEMBER IT CLEARLY AT TIMES
SINCE I CAME TO THIS TOWN, WITH THE SOUND OF WAVES AND SMELL OF SALTWATER,

I WANT TO SEE HER AGAIN
Talking and singing,
and gazing at the sea together....

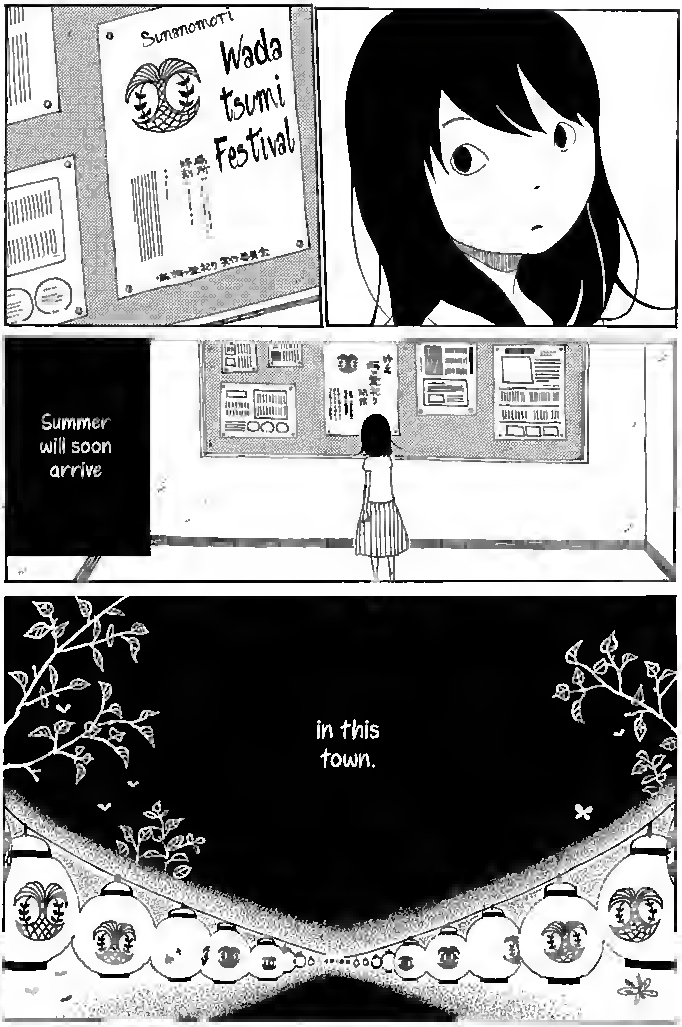
Since I come to this town, there have been lots of things I've wanted to chat with her about.

YEAH, AS GIFTS FOR LORD WADATSUMI
DRAW FISH?
SO WE DRAW FISH ON PAPER AS OFFERINGS
TO SHOW OUR FEELINGS OF GRATITUDE
AT WADATSUMI FESTIVAL, WE USUALLY OFFER UP FISH
HUH
Arts
Draw a picture of a fish.
@ For the festival, incorporate the feeling of gratitude.
BUT AS TIME PASSED WE STARTED TO USE PAPER ONES.
THEY SAY THAT IN THE PAST EVERYONE WOULD OFFER UP LIVE FISH,

SO EACH YEAR WHEN IT GETS CLOSE TO THE FESTIVAL, DURING ARTS TIME
EVERYONE DRAWS FISH AS OFFERINGS
I GET IT
DONE!
THANKS YOUR YELLOW FISH IS CUTE TOO, MIKUMO
THAT'S A PRETTY BLUE
THANKS
TOKI, ARE YOU GOING TO THE FESTIVAL WITH ANYONE?
NO... I DON'T KNOW IF I'M GOING YET
UNLESS YOU'RE SUPER BUSY OR SICK, EVERYONE IN TOWN GOES

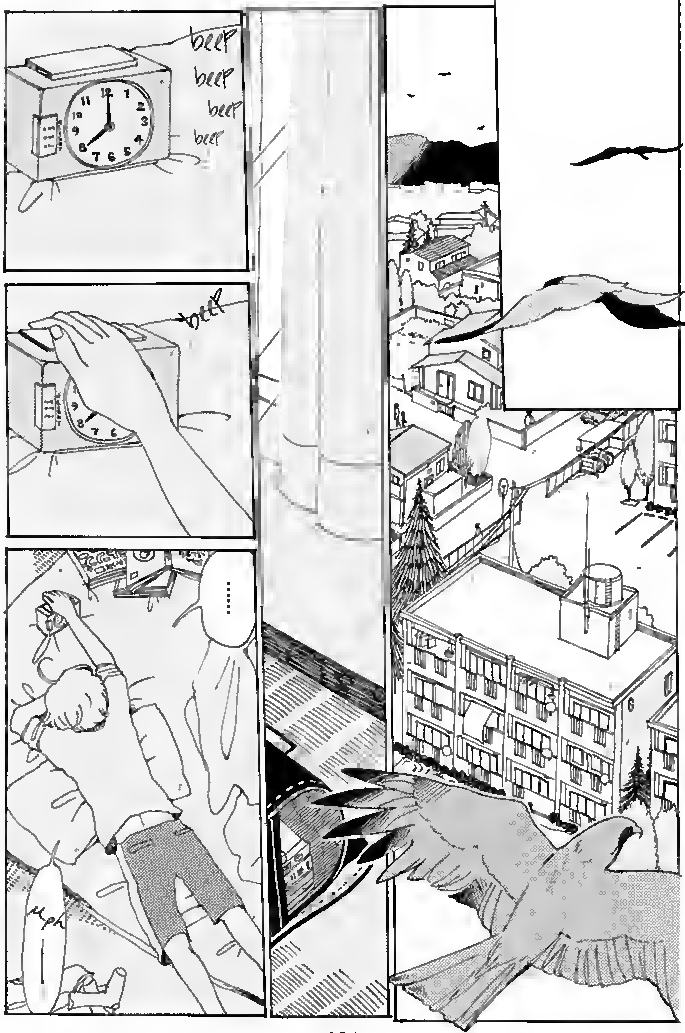
未来
未来
未来
未来
未来
未来
YOU SURE?
YEAH! I'LL GO!
THOUGH WE MIGHT HAVE TO LOOK AFTER MY LITTLE BROTHER...
IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANYONE TO GO WITH YET, WANT TO GO WITH ME?
REALLY?
YEAH.
OH, HEY
I DON'T MIND AT ALL!
I DON'T HAVE SIBLINGS, SO I'M KIND OF CURIOUS
THEN IT'S SET
YEAH

With the change in seasons, everyone started wearing short sleeves.
Things are still exactly as they left off that day.
With you, too.

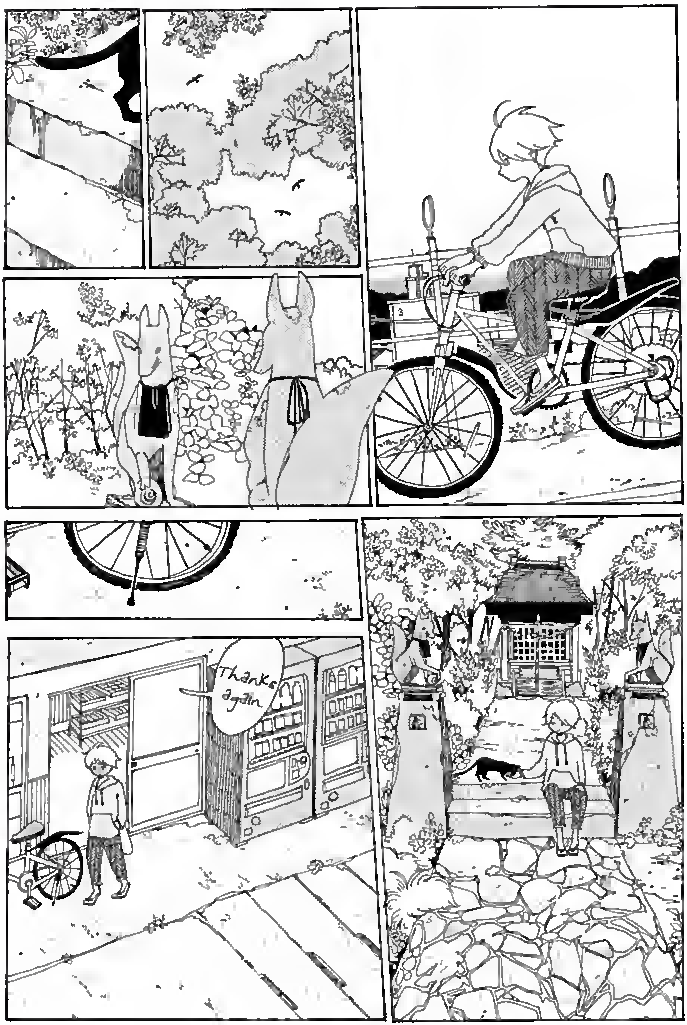


《To be continued》

[Extra] Narumi, Day One


beep
beep
beep
beep
beep
.....
Hah

Yonsuke,
m off to work.
ure to eat breakf
's Sunday, so rela
'll be home today
ter I've finis
t I need to
Mom
To Yonsuke,
I'm off to work. Make
sure to eat breakfast.
It's Sunday, so relax!
I'll be home today
after I've finished
what I need to do
Mom


Thanks again.

ครืนครืน
ครืนครืน

YOU'RE HOME LATE
HURRY AND WASH UP AND TAKE A SEAT
C
6
OH
A LETTER CAME FROM YOUR FATHER
OK, LIGHTS OUT
AIR MAIL

End.

The story starts out quietly. I hope you'll continue on this journey with me.

Until next time.

2013.8.23

Komori Youko

小森陽子

Everyone who helped me out on this work

小野寺大貴・大貫玲さん

松本里美さん

鈴木美佳さん

遠藤晋祐さん

千葉修平さん

Special Thanks

両親・親戚の皆様

担当編集 藤澤大吾様

装丁デザイン室 釣寄敏康様

大変の先生方、先輩 後輩の皆様

大人の皆様方・素敵様

愛犬アリス・おまめだち・犬チョビ

+

この本をお手に取ってくださった皆様方！

If you'd like to mail me your thoughts and opinions, send them to

〒101-8050

集英社

YOU編集部 宛て

Afterword

Hello,

this is Komori Youko.

Thank you for picking up volume one of "Aoi Uroko to Suna no Machi".

Like my previous work, the fact that this work is also being published in book format is thanks to all the people around me as well as all the readers.

As research for this work, I visited the sea for the first time in many years. I thought it'd be nice to draw a manga where the unique sound and smell of the sea triggered a flashback.